The Botswana
GAZETTE
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Mpho Sebina Breaks The Mould

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BOTSWANA'S MYSTERY WHO CANDIDATE

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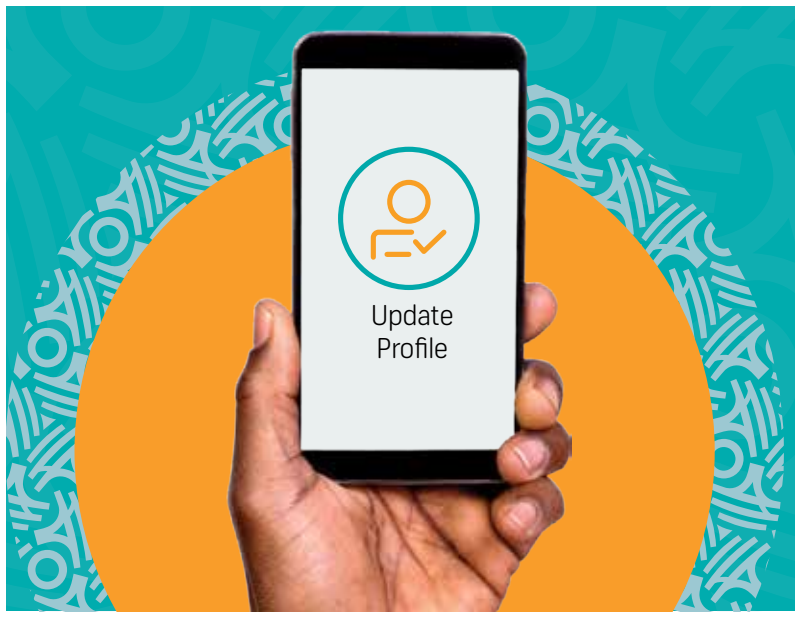

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BOTSWANA'S MYSTERY WHO CANDIDATE

Botswana's mysterious backing of Armenian oncologist Dr Gevorg Tamamyan for the WHO's top job has sparked scrutiny over the unlikely nomination and raised questions about his unfavourable political activism back home



GAZETTE REPORTERS

Botswana's surprise nomination of Armenian paediatric oncologist Dr Gevorg Tamamyan to become the next Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is raising questions about how a doctor from the South Caucasus secured the backing of the Botswana government for one of the most powerful positions in global health.

WHO records confirm that Tamamyan has been proposed by Botswana, making him an unusual candidate in a field in which the other publicly declared contenders have generally been nominated by countries with which they have direct national links. WHO lists Tamamyan simply as "proposed by Botswana."

Tamamyan is Professor and Chair of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology at Yerevan State Medical University in Armenia and Editor-in-Chief of oncology publication OncoDaily. He is Armenian and does not appear to have previously served in Botswana's public service.

Yet a trail of his activities in the months preceding his nomination shows that Tamamyan had been cultivating relationships connected to Botswana and had visited the country while canvassing international support for his WHO ambitions.

DEFENDING THE UNLIKELY BOTSWANA NOMINATION

In his own account explaining the unlikely Botswana nomination, Tamamyan disclosed that he had deliberately travelled internationally seeking political support for a cross-regional candidacy.

"So I travelled. I went to many countries, met many leaders, presented my ideas, listened, learned, and asked for support," Tamamyan wrote after questions emerged over why Botswana, rather than his native Armenia, had nominated him.

Botswana, he said, was one of those countries.

According to Tamamyan, discussions here went beyond a simple introduction.

"Botswana listened to my ideas," he wrote, before confirming that the government ultimately decided to back him despite his nationality.

He also confirmed that he visited Botswana in August 2026, barely weeks before the nomination process closed.

PRAISING PRESIDENT BOKO'S AMBITIONS

There is evidence that by August, Tamamyan had established access to President Duma Boko's administration.

On 9 August, following his visit, Tamamyan published a glowing commentary on Botswana through OncoDaily titled **The Hidden Gem in the Land of Gems**, presenting the country as an emerging destination for biomedical investment.

He praised President Boko's ambitions for the country's health and biomedical sectors before making an intriguing offer to international investors

He then invited interested biomedical industry players to contact him, saying he would be willing to connect them with the President's team.

No evidence uncovered by The Botswana Gazette establishes impropriety in those interactions. But the sequence leaves unanswered how a visiting Armenian oncologist progressed from promoting Botswana as a biomedical investment destination in August to becoming the country's candidate for WHO Director-General the following month.

> "Of course, our conversation was different from what we had originally planned,"

Global Attention- 'Why Botswana?'

The unusual nature of the arrangement has attracted attention internationally.

Global health publication Devex noted that Tamamyan's candidacy stood apart because Botswana nominated an Armenian national while the other candidates had been proposed by their home countries.

Devex said it approached the Botswana government seeking further information about the nomination but had received no response by the time its report was published on 25 September.

Tamamyan himself subsequently addressed the question directly under the heading: "Why not Armenia? Why Botswana?

He argued that he had deliberately sought to construct a candidacy crossing geographical boundaries and pointed out that WHO rules permit any member state to nominate a candidate irrespective of nationality

"Botswana did something different," he said.

THANKS BOKO PERSONALLY

When formally announcing his candidacy, however, Tamamyan specifically singled out President Boko.

"I am deeply grateful to President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko and the Government of Botswana for their trust," he wrote.

That acknowledgement puts the Presidency squarely at the centre of questions surrounding the decision.

Neither has government publicly explained what criteria it applied before choosing Tamamyan or whether other candidates approached Botswana for its nomination.

A HIGH-STAKES GLOBAL CONTEST

Tamamyan is among six publicly declared prospective candidates. They include Hanan Mohammed Al-Kuwari, proposed by Qatar; Hanan Balkhy, proposed by Saudi Arabia; Hans Kluge, proposed by Belgium; María Neira, proposed by Spain; Budi Gunadi Sadikin, proposed by Indonesia; and Tamamyan, proposed by Botswana.

His candidacy is already being presented internationally under Botswana's name. He is participating alongside other prospective candidates at the World Health Summit in Berlin this week, where organisers identify him as the candidate "proposed by Botswana."

ACTIVISM

A background check of Dr Tamamyan's local footprint suggest that he may not be on good terms with his government. On 10 June 2024, when Armenia was in the midst of a major opposition campaign seeking to remove Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan over territorial concessions to Azerbaijan, Tamamyan was among protesters occupying streets around parliament and opposition MPs attempting to initiate a parliamentary challenge to his government.

The Armenian Broadcasting Company carried a story of Tamamyan publicly participating in an Armenian opposition protest movement and accused police of receiving orders from Pashinyan and acting outside the law. He spoke explicitly about the prospect of a "peaceful transition of power." While that does not constitute wrongdoing, some say it means Botswana has nominated someone who has taken identifiable positions in Armenia's domestic political disputes.

COMMERCIAL LINKS WITH THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Another challenge for Botswana's candidate, according to experts is that he has extensive professional and commercial links with the pharmaceutical industry, which may be perceived as a red flag by some.

> "I am deeply grateful to President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko and the Government of Botswana for their trust,"

A review by The Botswana Gazette of Tamamyan's professional activities and public disclosures shows that his relationships with pharmaceutical companies extend across clinical research, financial interests and the commercial medical-media organisation he co-founded.

The relationships do not in themselves constitute wrongdoing, and Tamamyan has publicly advocated disclosure and transparency in dealing with pharmaceutical companies.

However, they raise questions about what conflict-of-interest assessment was conducted by the Botswana Government before it nominated him for the WHO's highest office.

Tamamyan himself appears aware that his pharmaceutical relationships could attract scrutiny during the WHO campaign.

In an extraordinary public disclosure on 3 October, just days after emerging as Botswana's candidate, Tamamyan revealed that he had arranged a meeting with executives of pharmaceutical company EMD Serono months earlier to discuss a possible partnership with OncoDaily.

Then Botswana nominated him. "I thought about canceling the meeting because of how some people might perceive it," Tamamyan wrote. He decided to proceed.

According to Tamamyan, however, the nature of the discussion changed after his nomination. Instead of concentrating on an OncoDaily partnership, he said, the conversation turned to how WHO and the pharmaceutical industry could cooperate more effectively.

"Of course, our conversation was different from what we had originally planned," he said.

FNB Botswana
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October 2026

The following standard Savings, Lending and Investment rates will apply

Local Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Rate per Annum (NACM)	Annual Effective Rate	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Current	-	-	Nil
Call	0.00% - 0.46%	0.00% - 0.46%	1,000
Money Maximiser	0.00% - 3.35%	0.00% - 3.40%	100,000
Savings (Poloko)	0.00% - 3.40%	0.00% - 3.45%	100
FutureSave	0.00% - 0.40%	0.00% - 0.40%	100
Future Forward	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.53%	50
Savings Pocket	0.00% - 1.60%	0.00% - 1.61%	-
FNB Motshelo Savings Account	2.25% - 3.35%	2.27% - 3.40%	500
Flexi Fixed (3 Months)	2.95% - 3.20%	2.99% - 3.25%	100
Flexi Fixed (6 Months)	4.05% - 4.35%	4.13% - 4.44%	100
Flexi Fixed (12 Months)	4.85% - 5.35%	4.96% - 5.48%	100
7 Day Notice	0.15% - 1.25%	0.15% - 1.26%	100
32 Day Notice Plus	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	2.50% - 2.55%	2.53% - 2.58%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	3.20%	3.24%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	4.10% - 4.35%	4.14% - 4.40%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	4.95% - 5.35%	4.95% - 5.35%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	5.00% - 5.45%	4.88% - 5.31%	1,000
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit	5.05% - 5.50%	4.77% - 5.17%	1,000
MoPR	5.50%		

***For term deposits the minimum amount is BWP 500,000 to qualify for a special rate.
- Interest is calculated on the daily account closing balance and credited in to the account monthly (For all interest bearing products excluding fixed deposits).
- Fixed deposits interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is credited at Maturity or termination.

Local Currency Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate Per Annum (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	5.50%	5.50%
Prime Lending Rate	7.01%	7.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime 3.5% to 14.75%	Prime +3.56% to + 17.06%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	Prime +14% to 18%	Prime +16.15% to 21.08%
Credit Card	22% to 28%	24.36% to 31.89%
Lease Loans (VAF)	Prime -1.5% to Prime +15.90%	Prime -1.36% to Prime +18.47%
Unsecured Personal Loans (Excluding Overdraft, Mortgage and Credit Card)	Prime +5% to 22%	Prime +5.12% to 26.19%
Other Term Loans	-	-

*Scheme related lending is as per the scheme contract.

Foreign Currency Deposit Rates

ZAR – South African Rand***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (ZAR)
Current (Global Account)	2.00%	2.00%	1,000
1 Month Fixed Deposit	1.00%	1.00%	1,000
2 Months Fixed Deposit	1.05%	1.05%	1,000
3 Months Fixed Deposit	1.25%	1.26%	1,000
6 Months Fixed Deposit	1.50%	1.51%	1,000
12 Months Fixed Deposit	2.00%	2.00%	1,000
24 Months Fixed Deposit	2.50%	2.50%	1,000

AUD – Australian Dollar	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (AUD)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	These rates are quoted on request		100
2 Months Fixed Deposit			100
3 Months Fixed Deposit			100
6 Months Fixed Deposit			100
12 Months Fixed Deposit			100
24 Months Fixed Deposit			100

USD – US Dollar***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (USD)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	0.40%	0.40%	100
2 Months Fixed Deposit	0.47%	0.47%	100
3 Months Fixed Deposit	0.50%	0.50%	100
6 Months Fixed Deposit	0.55%	0.55%	100
12 Months Fixed Deposit	0.80%	0.80%	100
24 Months Fixed Deposit	1.30%	1.30%	100

EUR – Euro	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (EUR)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	These rates are quoted on request		100
2 Months Fixed Deposit			100
3 Months Fixed Deposit			100
6 Months Fixed Deposit			100
12 Months Fixed Deposit			100
24 Months Fixed Deposit			100
Over 36 Months Fixed Deposit			100

GBP – British Pound Sterling***	Nominal Interest Rates/Annum (%)	Annual Effective Rates	Minimum Opening Balance (GBP)
Current (Global Account)	-	-	100
1 Month Fixed Deposit	0.07%	0.07%	100
2 Months Fixed Deposit	0.09%	0.09%	100
3 Months Fixed Deposit	0.10%	0.10%	100
6 Months Fixed Deposit	0.15%	0.15%	100
12 Months Fixed Deposit	0.20%	0.20%	100
24 Months Fixed Deposit	0.20%	0.20%	100

***Note:
- Special rates offered for amounts of ZAR 1 000 000 and more
- Special rates offered for amounts of USD 100 000 and more
- Special rates offered for amounts of GBP 100 000 and more

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Tamamyan: I Met Boko for WHO Nomination

The Armenian oncologist says he personally sought Botswana's backing, met President Boko and ministers in August, and directly asked government to nominate him for WHO's top job



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's surprise candidate for Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Gevorg Tamamyan, has revealed that he approached the Botswana Government himself and personally asked President Duma Boko's administration to support his nomination, rather than Botswana initially recruiting him for the global health position.

Responding to questions from The Botswana Gazette over the circumstances surrounding his unusual nomination by a country other than his own, Tamamyan said Botswana was among several governments he approached as part of a deliberate international campaign.

"I approached the Government of Botswana, just as I approached many other governments. Throughout this year, I visited many countries, and beyond those visits, I spoke with ministers, government representatives and professional colleagues around the world, seeking their support and nomination. Many of them can tell you about these conversations," he said.

> "From day zero, my conviction was very clear, and I said it publicly: I wanted to build a true cross-regional nomination. If I could present my vision and earn the trust of countries across different regions, I would run. Otherwise, I would not. That was my conviction, and that is what I worked toward."

MET BOKO, ASKED FOR SUPPORT

Crucially, Tamamyan confirmed that during his visit to Botswana in August 2026, he met President Boko and government ministers and that his potential WHO nomination was specifically discussed.

"During my visit to Botswana in August, I had the pleasure and honor of meeting President Boko and honorable ministers. Yes, we discussed my possible nomination. I presented my vision for global health and for a stronger WHO that works for countries and their people. I shared my firm belief that geography must not decide who lives. We were speaking the same language, and I asked for their support for my nomination if they found it appropriate."

His account provides the clearest explanation yet of how an Armenian paediatric oncologist with no apparent previous service in Botswana came to carry Botswana's flag in the race for one of global health's most influential positions.

Tamamyan said the government did not

Continues to page 6

BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE

TENDER NOTICE

Botswana Vaccine Institute Limited (BVI) is inviting companies to submit proposals for the below mentioned tenders:

1. INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CALIBRATION SERVICES AT BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS
2. INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES FOR BOTSWANAVACCINE INSTITUTE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS
3. INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS

NO	TENDER REF:	DESCRIPTION:	PPRA CODE:	PROCUREMENT METHOD	SITE VISIT/PRE-TENDER MEETING TIME AND DATE	TENDER CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	BVI/ ENG/01/2026-27	INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CALIBRATION SERVICES AT BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS	CODE: 140-CALIBRATION SERVICES SUB CODE(S): 01 – EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION	OPEN INTERNATIONAL BIDDING	ONLINE PRE-TENDER MEETING (COMPULSORY) 26 OCTOBER 2026 AT 1000HRS CAT Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/359093911691199?p=ybcdjbyF6gTWdTd7eM Meeting ID: 359 093 911 691 199 Passcode: dy7B9bv2	03 NOVEMBER 2026 AT 1000HRS
2	BVI/ SHEB/23/2026-27	INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES FOR BOTSWANA VACCINE INSTITUTE LIMITED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS	CODE: 103-COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SUBCODE 01: SEWAGE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND RELATED SERVICES AND SUBCODE 02- REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES	OPEN DOMESTIC BIDDING	13 OCTOBER 2026 (COMPULSORY) BVI HQ, PLOT 6385/90 AT 0830HRS BROADHURST RANCH-1000HRS SEDIBENG RANCH, GOODHOPE AREA-1430HRS	21 OCTOBER 2026 AT 1000HRS
3	BVI/ SHEB/24/2026-27	INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR BOTSWANA VACCINE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS	CODE-SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUBCODE 03-DISINFECTING AND EXTERMINATION SERVICES	OPEN DOMESTIC BIDDING	20 OCTOBER 2026 (COMPULSORY) BVI HQ, PLOT 6385/90 AT 0830HRS BROADHURST RANCH-1000HRS SEDIBENG RANCH, GOODHOPE AREA-1430HRS	28 OCTOBER 2026 AT 1000HRS

For Tenders 1 and 2, documents will be available with effect from **07 October 2026** while for tender 3 documents will be available with effect from **15 October 2026** and will be sent to bidders via email upon submission of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of **BWP250.00 (two hundred and fifty Pula Only) each.** 100 % Batswana Youth owned companies will pay **BWP125.00 (one hundred and twenty-five pula only)** each a non-refundable fee. Submission of Identity Document (Omang) for shareholders and company documentation as proof will be required. The non-refundable tender fees are payable to the BVI Account details provided below. Proof of payment must be emailed to procurement@bvi.co.bw. To access the full tender notice please visit https://bvi.co.bw/tenders/

The BVI banking details are as follows:
Bank: Access Bank **Account type**: Current **Branch code**: 552067 **Branch name**: Corporate **Account Number**: 1002533640701
Swift code: FMBZBWGA

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from page 4

immediately accept his request but deliberated on it before eventually approving his nomination at the eleventh hour.

"The Government of Botswana took time to discuss and consider it. In fact, my nomination was approved on the last day. I am deeply grateful to President Boko and the Government of Botswana for their decision and their trust."

He did not identify which ministers he met or specify who within government ultimately recommended that Botswana should formally submit his name.

WHY NOT ARMENIA?

Tamamyan said approaching Botswana rather than relying on his native Armenia was consistent with a strategy he had adopted from the beginning of his campaign.

"From day zero, my conviction was very clear, and I said it publicly: I wanted to build a true cross-regional nomination. If I could present my vision and earn the trust of countries across different regions, I would run. Otherwise, I would not. That was my conviction, and that is what I worked toward."

Regarding his home country, he added:

"Regarding Armenia, I love my country. But, as I have said before, I do not believe that a passport should decide the future of healthcare. Seeking support across regions was my choice from the beginning. I wanted countries to consider my vision, my work and my capacity to lead."

Tamamyan said professional contacts helped open doors during his international lobbying campaign.

"I had hundreds of meetings and conversations around the world, through colleagues with whom I had worked. They knew me, they knew my capacity, and they had seen how I performed. That is why they introduced me to others and helped me share my vision."

NOMINATION TERMS

"Regarding campaign financing, it will not cost anything to Botswana. There absolutely no expectations. So far, the costs have been very limited, and I have covered them myself," he said.

DEFENDS BUSINESS INTERESTS

Tamamyan also responded to questions surrounding his commercial interests and pharmaceutical-industry relationships, saying his ownership of medical publication OncoDaily was disclosed during discussions over his nomination.

"Regarding OncoDaily and P53 Inc, I have told this story many times, and I am happy to tell it here as well. OncoDaily is a startup I co-founded three years ago, and we incorporated it under the name P53 Inc. We started from zero, and now it is growing. During the nomination discussions, I openly disclosed that I am an owner and co-founder of OncoDaily and this is public information. If elected by Member States, I will take the necessary steps regarding my ownership and professional responsibilities to ensure there is no conflict of interest with my duties at WHO."

The disclosure is significant because WHO's Director-General routinely deals with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies on medicines, vaccines, pricing, research and global health policy.

AGENUS SHARES

Tamamyan also confirmed that he personally owns shares in US biotechnology company Agenus, although he characterised the investment as small.

"We did not specifically discuss these shares during the nomination process because I considered the amount insignificant, but the information is public," he said.

Tamamyan also disclosed that before Botswana nominated him, he had been offered a consultancy arrangement that could have compensated him in company shares. He said he has since withdrawn.

He maintained that transparency would guide his handling of potential conflicts should he ultimately become WHO Director-General.

OKAVANGO DIAMOND COMPANY

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- Ensuring compliance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Conducting regular security audits and assessments.
- Monitoring and managing security breaches by identifying, investigating, resolving and preparing incident reports on internal investigations.
- Adhering to regulatory standards, protecting the company's reputation and managing compliance to prevent operational risks.

The Person:
The ideal candidate will possess the following:
- Bachelor's Degree in Security Management.
- A minimum of 6 years security experience in a high value security environment and 3 years of which should be in a management role.

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ACTIVISTS' ARRESTS TEST UDC RIGHTS PLEDGE

The BCP says the arrest and interrogation of activists over Facebook comments cast doubt on the UDC government's commitment to freedom of expression.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has criticised the UDC government over the arrest and interrogation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of its activists Obakeng Sethibe and Rachel Tlharesagae in connection with their reactions to a Facebook post published by a pseudo account using the name Gosee Kone.

> "They were merely exercising their freedom of expression like any other Motswana on social media."

FREE EXPRESSION

Speaking to The Botswana Gazette, BCP Publicity Secretary Olebile Machete said the party was shocked by the arrests, arguing that the two activists were exercising their right to freedom of expression on social media.

Machete said their actions amounted to the same exercise of freedom of expression available to any Motswana using social media, questioning why their comments had resulted in police interrogation.

RIGHTS QUESTIONED

"We are shocked by the arrest of our activists because they were reacting to what was already posted by the pseudo account. They were merely exercising their freedom of expression like any other Motswana on social media," Machete said.

He questioned the government's human-rights credentials, arguing that the arrests appeared inconsistent with the UDC administration's stated commitment to placing human rights at the centre of governance.

PSEUDO ACCOUNT

The party's concerns also extend to the Facebook account involved in the matter, with Machete describing the Gosee Kone account as a "pseudo account".

He alleged that the account had been posting sensitive information about prominent people, raising questions within the BCP about the circumstances surrounding the activists' interrogation.

UDC PLEDGE

The BCP's criticism comes against the backdrop of President Duma Boko's repeated emphasis on human rights and civil liberties. During the 2024 election campaign, Boko said the UDC was founded on principles of political freedom and civil liberties.

After taking office, Boko also pledged that his administration would uphold human rights and ensure fair trials for people accused of wrongdoing.

The BCP argues that the treatment of its activists should therefore be assessed against those commitments.

DCEC Net Widens to Ex-BQA Boss

Former BQA executive Dr Gillian Keneilwe Mmolotsa has become the latest senior former public-sector official hauled before court in the DCEC's widening 2026 prosecution trail.

BONGANI MALUNGA



The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime's (DCEC) prosecution trail has reached another former senior public-sector executive, with former Botswana Qualifications Authority (BQA) Deputy Chief Executive Officer Dr Gillian Keneilwe Mmolotsa facing two corruption charges.

Mmolotsa becomes at least the sixth senior political or public-service figure to face charges in DCEC-linked cases this year. The list includes former ministers Lefoko Moagi, Noah Salakae, Mpho Balopi and Eric Molale, as well as former Permanent Secretary Kgakgamalo Ken Ketshajwang.

Mmolotsa appeared before the Regional Magistrate Court on 5 October for arraignment on two counts of corruption, according to a DCEC statement released on Tuesday.

P20,000 ALLEGATION

The first charge dates back more than a decade. The DCEC alleges that between July and November 2015, while employed by BQA as a Standards Specialist responsible for developing registration and accreditation standards, Mmolotsa received P20,000 in connection with the accreditation of the Institute of Entrepreneurial Development (IED).

According to the anti-graft agency, she allegedly "accepted valuable consideration in the sum of P20 000" as a reward for assisting IED through the accreditation process.

The second count relates to August 2021, when Mmolotsa was Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer and a member of BQA's Management Quality Assurance Committee.

INTEREST UNDECLARED

The DCEC alleges that Mmolotsa had a personal interest in a decision concerning IED's application for registration and accreditation but "knowingly failed to disclose the nature of such interest" before participating in committee proceedings.

Mmolotsa pleaded not guilty to both counts and was granted P5,000 bail on condition that she attends court proceedings and does not interfere with prosecution witnesses. The case returns to court on 19 October for a case management conference.

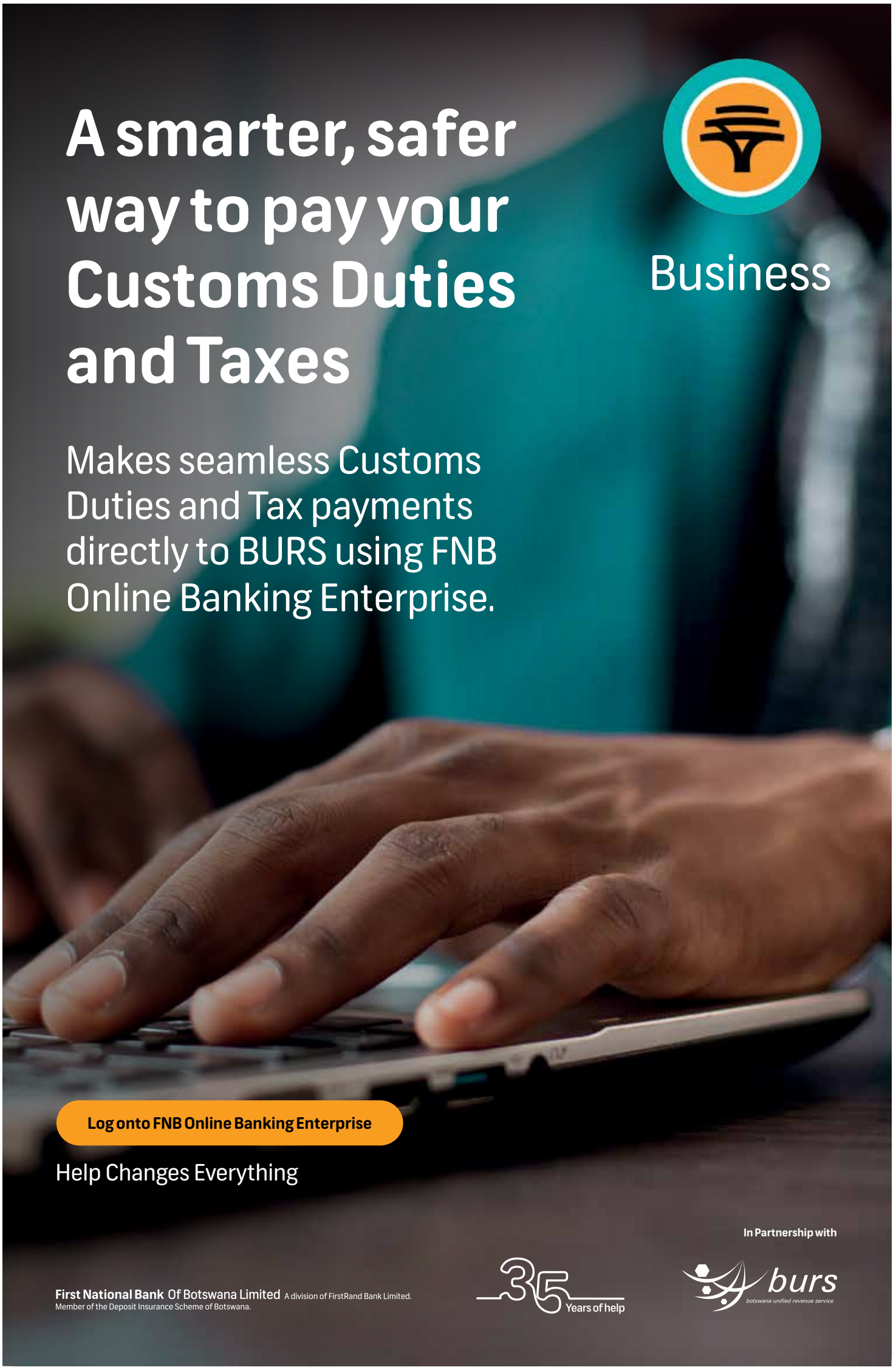
DCEC TRAIL

Her arraignment adds to a procession of senior former office-bearers appearing before the courts this year.

Moagi was arraigned in January over allegations that he received P4.706 million connected to prospecting licences. In August, former transport minister Salakae and former Permanent Secretary Ketshajwang were among those charged over the Ghanzi-New Xade road contract.

September brought charges against BDP president and former cabinet minister Balopi in a CEDA-linked fraud and money-laundering case, while Molale was charged with abuse of office in the Ghanzi-New Xade matter.

The DCEC has rejected suggestions that its high-profile investigations amount to political targeting, insisting that it "conducts its investigations impartially and without prejudice." All the cases remain before the courts and the accused are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.



Mmila Fund Administrators

Ikanye Mmila!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL No. MFA/AUDIT/2026/002
PROVISION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES TO MMILA FUND ADMINISTRATORS (Pty) Ltd

Mmila Fund Administrators (Pty) Ltd (Mmila) is seeking services for the provision of external audit services as a corporate governance requirement as well as a regulatory requirement.

The Request For Proposal (RFP) is open to **entities** that have the necessary qualifications, background, and relevant experience in similar work. The scope, terms, and conditions of the service are given in this RFP Document.

The RFP documents containing details of the requirements will be sent electronically on weekdays upon receipt of proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of **BWP2,500.00**

The proof of payment must be sent to tmorapedi@mmila.co.bw and a copy to stsie@mmila.co.bw with a request for the RFP Document to be sent via email.

Payment should be made to:

Account Name: Mmila Fund Administrators
Bank Name: Stanbic Bank Botswana
Branch Name: Fairgrounds
Branch Code: 064967
Account No: 9060003662611
Reference: Company Name

Queries or inquiries related to this tender may be addressed to the Accounts Officer at **Tel:+267 373 5261** by **14 October 2026.**

Sealed Tenders marked **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO: MFA/AUDIT/2026/002: TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES TO MMILA FUND ADMINISTRATORS** shall be submitted not later than **30 October 2026, 10h00** at the following physical address:

Mmila Fund Administrators
Plot 64511, Fairgrounds Office Park
Email: tmorapedi@mmila.co.bw

Tenders shall be opened at **10h15 on 30th October 2026** at Mmila offices at the above address, in the presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

Mmila Fund Administrators reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender or assign reasons for the acceptance or rejection of any bid.

Service Excellence Assured

Gaborone Office: +267 395 6966 ● +267 74 500 058 | Jwaneng Office: +267 588 4849 ● +267 74 500 116 | Orapa Office: +267 290 2323 ● +267 74 500 097
Email: info@mmila.co.bw

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- Music Teacher: Experience in teaching the Trinity Music
- Curriculum and Examinations Syllabus/ Cambridge Curriculum experience.
- Experience in an English Medium or International school environment
- Fluent in English First/First Additional Language, written and spoken
- Minimum experience 3 (three) years, prefer 5 (five)
- Be able to play different instruments

2. **BUS DRIVER**
   REQUIREMENTS:

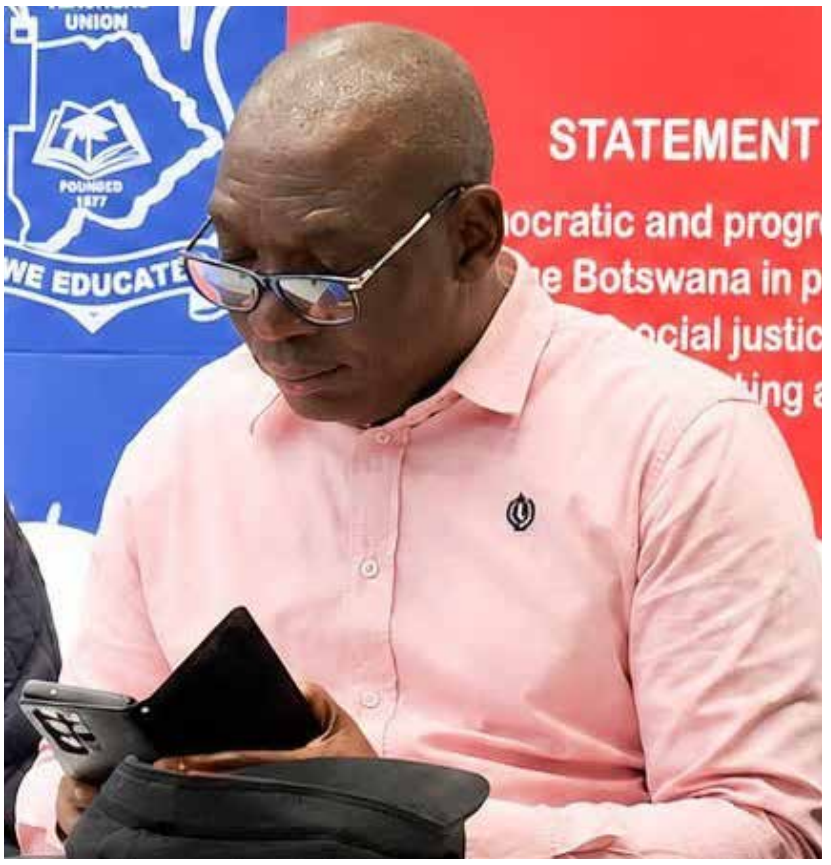
- Must have PrDP Special/Passengers License
- Must have reading skills for following instructions, be punctual, reliable and trust worthy
- Must be able to drive manual
- Excellent communication skill
- Must have a Police Clearance
- 10+ years' prior work experience

3. **IT TECHNICIAN**
   REQUIREMENTS:

- Degree in Computers / Computing
- Must have Graphic Design qualifications
- Fluent in English /First Additional Language, written and spoken
- Prior work experience preferred
- Strong knowledge in Microsoft office package and Adobe or similar
- Must have a strong understanding in programming, Robotics & Stem

Please forward Letter of Application, CV, certified copies of certificates and names of 2 (two) referees to:
The Managing Director, Legae English Medium School, PO Box 641 Gaborone – Botswana.
Email: legae@legaeinvestors.com

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 23 October 2026



BOFEPUSU Lays Claim to UDC Manifesto

BOFEPUSU says organised labour helped shape key UDC manifesto commitments and insists its criticism of government is about holding the administration to promises made to workers.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) has rejected suggestions that its increasingly vocal criticism of government amounts to an anti-government posture, arguing that organised labour helped shape some of the commitments on which the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) was elected.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, BOFEPUSU Secretary General Robert Rabasimane said unions engaged political parties ahead of the 2024 general elections and scrutinised their manifestos to determine whether workers' interests, particularly those of public servants, were adequately addressed.

He said organised labour subsequently engaged the UDC and pushed for improvements to its labour agenda, meaning unions cannot reasonably be characterised as enemies of an administration whose policy platform they helped influence.

MANIFESTO CHANGES

"We instructed them to amend their manifestos because the civil workforce's interests were not well catered for extensively. Our second meeting with the UDC centered on improved labour relations," Rabasimane said.

The UDC previously acknowledged that trade unions were among groups consulted in developing its 2024 manifesto, alongside civil society organisations and other stakeholders. Its manifesto included labour-related commitments such as the P4,000 living wage, which President Duma Boko has continued to associate with the government's agenda.

SHARED AGENDA

"We believed that their pledges aligned with addressing the plight of the civil workforce. They mentioned the P4000 minimum wage. They promised improved labour relations," he said.

His remarks come against strained relations between organised labour and the administration, with BOFEPUSU repeatedly challenging government decisions affecting public servants and accusing authorities of inadequate consultation on some reforms.

BROKEN PROMISES

"What drives a wedge between us is unfulfilled promises. If you ask pertinent questions you are labelled as the government's adversary," he said.

Despite the friction, BOFEPUSU says its door remains open for dialogue.

"We are fully behind the government," Rabasimane said, adding: "We are open to engaging the government. If the govt wants to engage us, be it at a federation level or individual affiliate level, we will inform our affiliates to meet up with the government to come up with ways to improve labour relations and the nation at large."

Deposit and lending interest rates as at October 2026

Deposit rates

BWP - Botswana Pula

Types of deposit account	Nominal interest rate	Actual interest rates	Minimum opening balance (BWP)
Current	0.00% - 1.00%	0.00% - 1.00%	50
Call	0.00% - 0.55%	0.00% - 0.55%	10,000
Savings	0.00% - 4.50%	0.00% - 4.59%	100
91 days fixed deposit	1.46%	1.47%	1,000
6 months fixed deposit	1.73% - 1.90%	1.74% - 1.91%	1,000
12 months fixed deposit	2.57% - 3.07%	2.57% - 3.07%	1,000
24 months fixed deposit	2.92% - 3.62%	2.92% - 3.62%	1,000
36 months fixed deposit	3.02% - 3.82%	3.02% - 3.82%	1,000

ZAR - South African Rand

Types of deposit account	Nominal interest rate	Actual interest rates	Minimum opening balance (ZAR)
Current	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	3,450
Call	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	3,450
Savings	Negotiable	Negotiable	3,450
91 days fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	3,450
6 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	3,450
12 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	3,450
24 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	3,450
36 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	3,450

GBP - British Pounds

Types of deposit account	Nominal interest rate	Actual interest rates	Minimum opening balance (GBP)
Current	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	300
Call	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	300
Savings	Negotiable	Negotiable	300
91 days fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	300
6 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	300
12 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	300
24 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	300
36 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	300

USD - U.S Dollar

Types of deposit account	Nominal interest rate	Actual interest rates	Minimum opening balance (USD)
Current	0.00% - 0.00%	0.00% - 0.00%	500
Call	0.00% - 2.50%	0.00% - 2.50%	500
Savings	Negotiable	Negotiable	500
91 days fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	500
6 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	500
12 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	500
24 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	500
36 months fixed deposit	Negotiable	Negotiable	500

Lending rates

Lending rates	Nominal interest rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rates (%)
Monetary policy rate (MoPR)	5.50%	
Mortgage Facility	Absa PLR + 10.50% - Absa PLR + 14%	20.76%
Overdraft facility (revolving credit lines)	Absa PLR + 10% - Absa PLR + 20%	24.07%
Credit card	24% - 36%	34.49%
Lease loans (VAF)	Absa PLR + 11.75% - Absa PLR + 14%	21.50%
Unsecured personal loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	Absa PLR + 14.5% - Absa PLR + 24%	29.35%
Other long-term loans	Negotiable	
Absa Prime Lending Rate (Absa PLR)	6.76%	

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Botswana's Regional Elephant Deals Falter

Botswana's efforts to relocate surplus elephants are hitting a cost wall as prospective recipient countries balk at huge transportation bills, with Mozambique the latest to backtrack.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana's efforts to reduce its burgeoning elephant population by relocating some of the animals to other African countries are being frustrated by the enormous cost of transportation, Minister of Environment and Tourism Wynter Mmolotsi has revealed.

According to Mmolotsi, while several countries have shown interest in receiving elephants from Botswana, the deals have struggled to get off the ground once prospective recipients are confronted with the cost and logistical burden of moving the giant mammals.

"Migration processes have been frustrated by the transportation costs because these countries are not prepared to bear the insurmountable costs of transporting the elephants," Mmolotsi told The Botswana Gazette.

MOZAMBIQUE BACKS OFF

He revealed that Mozambique recently expressed interest in receiving elephants from Botswana but retreated after learning that it would have to shoulder the transportation costs.

"Mozambique also recently expressed interest, but when they learnt that they would have to transport the elephants themselves, they backtracked," the minister said.

COSTLY EXERCISE

Moving elephants over long distances is a complex undertaking involving capture, specialised transportation, veterinary expertise and extensive logistical planning.

The cost problem has previously been acknowledged by President Duma Boko. In February, Boko said transportation of elephants to Mozambique had proved prohibitively expensive and suggested that Botswana should explore natural migration corridors as an alternative.

Botswana previously pledged thousands of elephants to Angola, while Mozambique has also featured among countries identified as potential recipients.

ELEPHANT PRESSURE

Botswana hosts one of the world's largest populations of African savannah elephants, with government estimates in recent years putting the herd at more than 130,000.

While the population is regarded as a major conservation success, it has also become a source of intense human-wildlife conflict, particularly in communities within the elephants' expanding range.

Elephants raid crops, damage fences and water infrastructure and occasionally injure or kill people, leaving communities in wildlife areas bearing much of the cost of living alongside the animals.

CORRIDOR OPTION

Mmolotsi has acknowledged the continuing pressure, telling Parliament this year that government was pursuing several interventions, including identifying wildlife corridors, translocation, compensation, hunting quotas and other measures aimed at reducing conflict between people and wildlife.

With physical relocation proving prohibitively expensive, attention is increasingly shifting towards opening migration corridors that could enable elephants to disperse naturally into neighbouring countries.

Stanbic Bank
Business & Commercial

AFRICA BUSINESS AWARDS 26



AFRICA
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Across the continent, SMEs are redefining what Africa's future can look like. **The Stanbic Bank Africa Business Awards 2026** celebrate the businesses driving progress, strengthening communities and unlocking opportunity across Africa.

By recognising the continent's most impactful enterprises, the Awards aim to amplify the businesses building stronger economies and creating opportunity for future generations.

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Stanbic Bank

Stanbic Bank Botswana
DEPOSIT, LENDING AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES
October 2026



Stanbic Bank Botswana Prime Lending Rate (SBBPLR) - 7.01%

BWP Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance
Current	NIL	NIL	P50
Youth Account	2.00%	2.02%	P50
Call	0.05% - 1.00%	0.05% - 1.00%	P10,000
Premium Call	0.80% - 1.30%	0.80% - 1.31%	P50,000
32 Day Notice	0.25% - 1.00%	0.25% - 1.00%	P1,000
Savings (Pure Save)	0.25% - 0.75%	0.25%-0.75%	P50
Koketso Savings	2.40%	2.43%	P100
Matshelo Savings	0.50% - 1.50%	0.50% - 1.51%	P500
Maitlamo Savings (12 - 36 months)	2.30% - 2.80%	2.32% - 2.84%	P100
91 day fixed deposit *[a]	1.90%	1.92%	P1,000
6 month fixed deposit [a]	2.10% - 2.30%	2.12% - 2.32%	P1,000
12 month fixed deposit [a]	2.20% - 2.35%	2.22%-2.38%	P1,000
24 month fixed deposit [a]	2.55% - 2.80%	2.58% - 2.84%	P1,000
Over 24 month fixed deposit [a]	2.80% - 3.30%	2.84% - 3.35%	P1,000
Stanbic Bank Prime Lending Rate	7.01%		

* Reference rate
[a] Rate applies to Flexi - Access Account
All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Lending Interest Rates

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rates % (Lowest - Highest)
MoPR	5.50%	
SBBPLR Lending Rate	7.01%	
Mortgage Facility	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving credit lines)	SBBPLR +5% - SBBPLR +18%	SBBPLR + 5.12% - SBBPLR + 19.56%
Credit Card	28% - 32%	31.89% - 37.14%
Lease Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 15%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 16.08%
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdrafts, mortgage and credit cards)	SBBPLR +8% - SBBPLR +22%	SBBPLR + 8.30% - SBBPLR + 24.36%
Other Long-Term Loans	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 18%	SBBPLR - SBBPLR + 19.56%
*Scheme related lending is per the scheme contract and is negotiable.		

All interest rates quoted are on annual basis

Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
SA RAND	SA RAND	SA RAND	SA RAND
Current	0.0%	0.0%	100.00
Call	0.00%-1.75%	0%-1.76%	500.00
1 Month	1.50%-2.50%	1.51%-2.53%	1,000.00
2 Months	1.60%-2.60%	1.61%-2.63%	1,000.00
3 Months	1.70%-2.70%	1.71%-2.73%	1,000.00
6 Months	1.80%-2.80%	1.81%-2.84%	1,000.00
12 Months	2.20%-3.20%	2.22%-3.25%	1,000.00
Over 24 Months	2.40%-3.50%	2.43%-3.56%	1,000.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%-1.00%	0.05%-1.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.25%-0.35%	0.25%-0.35%	100.00
2 Months	0.35%-0.42%	0.35%-0.42%	100.00
3 Months	0.37%-0.45%	0.37%-0.45%	100.00
6 Months	0.40%-0.60%	0.40%-0.60%	100.00
12 Months	0.45%-0.75%	0.45%-0.75%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.75%-1.25%	0.75%-1.26%	100.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND	BRITISH POUND
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.05%	0.05%	100.00
1 Month	0.05%-0.07%	0.05%-0.07%	100.00
2 Months	0.07%-0.09%	0.07%-0.09%	100.00
3 Months	0.09%-0.10%	0.09%-0.10%	100.00
6 Months	0.10%-0.15%	0.10%-0.15%	100.00
12 Months	0.20%-0.30%	0.20%-0.30%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.25%-0.40%	0.25%-0.40%	100.00

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rates (%)	Actual Interest Rates (%)	Minimum Opening Balance
EURO, AUD & JPY	EURO, AUD & JPY	EURO, AUD & JPY	EURO, AUD & JPY
Current	0.0%	0.0%	50.00
Call	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
1 Month	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
2 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
3 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
6 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
12 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00
Over 24 Months	0.00%	0.00%	100.00

- All interest rates quoted are on annual basis
- Interest is calculated based on the daily closing balance and is credited to the account monthly. Interest begins to accrue from the day a deposit is made, if the minimum balance requirement is met. This applies to all interest-bearing products, except fixed deposits.
- Fixed Deposit interest is calculated based on the principal amount, agreed term and applicable interest rate. The accrued interest is paid at maturity or termination.

Member of Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana

Govt Wildlife Offer to Serowe Stands

The government says Bangwato still have until the end of October to take up its wildlife slaughter off er despite Kgosi Ian Khama's preference for cattle.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The government's offer of wildlife to Serowe for slaughter during Botswana's Independence celebrations remains open despite its rejection by Bangwato Paramount Chief Lt Gen Ian Khama, Minister of Environment and Tourism Wynter Boipuso Mmolotsi has said.

Mmolotsi says the licence issued for the wildlife remains valid until the end of October and that the people of Serowe may still take up the offer should they wish to do so.

CATTLE OFFER

Khama, a prominent conservationist, rejected the government's offer and instead pledged cattle for his people to slaughter as part of the Independence celebrations.

It is understood that the government offer was subsequently not taken up and no wildlife was killed after the District Commissioner informed the ministry of Khama's position.

However, Mmolotsi said Khama's alternative offer of cattle did not prevent the community from also accepting the wildlife offered by government.

OFFER STANDS

"Yes, the District Commissioner wrote a letter to us informing us of the developments, but as I said in my response, the offer still stands and nothing stopped both offers from being seized," Mmolotsi said.

"The licence is valid until the end of October and Bangwato can still seize it if they are interested."

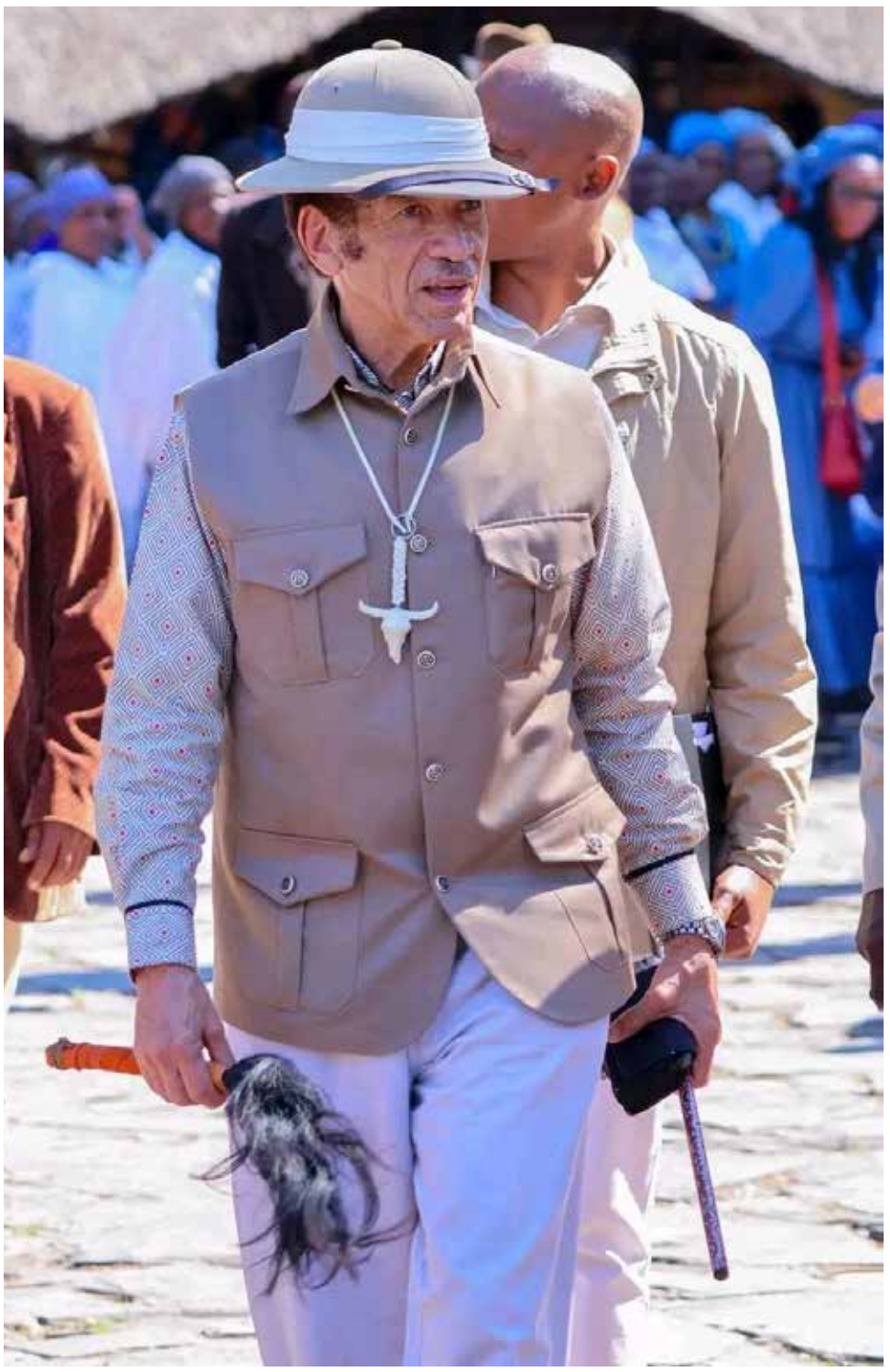
The development leaves the decision in the hands of the Serowe community, which still has until the expiry of the licence to take up the government offer.

CONSERVATION CLASH

The controversy emerged ahead of Botswana's Independence celebrations when government made wildlife available for slaughter in different parts of the country as part of the festivities.

Khama opposed the Serowe allocation and offered cattle instead, setting up a disagreement with government over whether wildlife should be slaughtered for the celebrations.

Khama, who served as Botswana's president from 2008 to 2018, has long associated himself with wildlife conservation and championed conservation measures during his presidency.



Bangwato Paramount Chief Lt Gen Ian Khama

Ovaherero Seek Justice in Botswana

The Global Ovaherero Genocide Foundation says Botswana's Ovaherero communities deserve a greater voice in the continuing fight for genocide recognition, reparations and ancestral justice.

GAZETTE REPORTER

The Global Ovaherero Genocide Foundation has called for greater recognition of Ovaherero communities in Botswana as it presses for justice, recognition and reparations linked to the genocide committed under German colonial rule.

The call was made during the handover of a petition to German Ambassador to Botswana Gabriela Bännemann. In a separate interview with Pauline Diamond, Foundation Chairperson Nandi Mazeingo discussed the significance of the petition, Botswana's historical role and concerns over participation in the activities.

BOTSWANA'S ROLE

Mazeingo said Botswana was an important part of the Ovaherero story because the country had hosted communities displaced by the genocide for more than a century.

He said the petition was intended to give Ovaherero in Botswana an opportunity to assert their identity and raise concerns about their history.

"We are here, we have a history, we have a story to tell, and it must be listened to," Mazeingo said.

According to Mazeingo, generations of settlement had made Ovaherero part of Botswana's social fabric and given the community an interest in issues affecting its identity and the legacy of the genocide.

RESTRICTIONS QUESTIONED

The visit was also marked by criticism over restrictions on participation in the petition activities.

Mazeingo said he was not privy to why the government could not accept the petition directly, but questioned a reported decision to limit the number of people accompanying the delegation to the German Embassy to 20.

He said the restriction was surprising because there was no indication, in his view, that participants intended to cause violence or disrupt public order.

"What shocked me was that people could not peacefully walk through the streets of Gaborone in their numbers to express their wishes," he said.

WIDER RECOGNITION

Mazeingo nevertheless acknowledged Botswana's longstanding role in supporting displaced Ovaherero communities, saying the country had "housed them, fed them, clothed them, educated them" for more than 120 years.

> "We are here, we have a history, we have a story to tell, and it must be listened to."

Paramount Chief of the Ovaherero Professor Mutjinde Katjiua said Ovaherero communities in Namibia, Botswana, South Africa and elsewhere formed part of a broader transnational community affected by the consequences of German colonial rule.

He said the 1904 extermination order and subsequent measures resulted in killings, displacement and the loss of land and livestock. He argued that descendants outside Namibia should therefore participate in negotiations concerning recognition and reparations.

REPARATIONS DISPUTED

The foundation is calling for Germany to address demands relating to reparations, ancestral land and the return of human remains taken during the colonial period.

Katjiua also criticised the state-to-state negotiations between Namibia and Germany, saying affected communities had been excluded from direct participation. He said a case challenging the resulting Joint Declaration remained before the Namibian High Court.

The petition handed to the German ambassador was signed by 41 descendants of genocide victims from Botswana and Namibia. Bännemann said she would forward it to the German government in Berlin.

Mazeingo said the campaign would continue across borders, with Germany expected to host next year's commemoration.

DPP Powers Face High Court Test

Bakang Seretse's challenge to prosecutors handling his 63-count case could test the legal foundation for delegated prosecutorial authority beyond his own criminal proceedings.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Businessman Bakang Seretse and his former lawyer, now Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Kgosietsile Ngakaagae, are headed for an unusual legal showdown in the High Court over the scope and legality of prosecutorial powers exercised by the DPP's office.

At the heart of the dispute is Seretse's challenge to the legal basis upon which prosecutorial authority is delegated within the Directorate of Public Prosecutions.

The case carries an unusual twist because Ngakaagae previously represented Seretse in the same criminal matter before his appointment as DPP. After assuming office and when the matter was reinstated, Ngakaagae recused himself from representing Seretse.

> "The decision to prosecute belongs exclusively to the DPP."

63 CHARGES

Seretse, together with Sharifa Noor, Kgori Capital (Pty) Ltd and Kgori Holdings (Pty) Ltd, has appealed against a June 30, 2026 ruling by Magistrate Mareledi Dipate.

The accused face 63 counts, including stealing by agent, money laundering, forgery of an official document and conspiracy to defraud government.

POWERS CHALLENGED

Seretse and his co-appellants argue that the magistrate failed to determine whether written authority issued by the Deputy DPP amounted to lawful authority under Section 51A of the Constitution.

They further contend that the magistrate wrongly relied on Statutory Instrument No. 57 of 2005 without first determining whether the DPP possessed legal authority to create the delegated framework upon which the prosecution relies.

The appellants contend that the decision to prosecute belongs exclusively to the DPP and that any delegation can extend only to implementing a decision already taken by the DPP.

AUTHORITY QUESTIONED

They are asking the High Court to overturn Dipate's ruling and declare that prosecutors Thabo Malambane, Othugile Mabe and Ishmael Matsiara lacked authority to institute and prosecute the charges against them.

The appellants also want the charge sheet signed by Malambane quashed and set aside, together with an order for costs.

The challenge could have implications beyond Seretse's case because it questions the legal foundation upon which prosecutorial functions are delegated within Botswana's criminal justice system.

FORMER CLIENT

Ngakaagae previously stood on Seretse's side of the courtroom as his lawyer in the same matter. Following his appointment as DPP, he withdrew from representing Seretse. Seretse is now challenging prosecutorial authority exercised under the office Ngakaagae heads.

DEPOSIT AND LENDING INTEREST RATES

October 2026

Interest earned is Tax- Free



DEPOSIT RATES

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (Lowest - Highest)	Actual Interest Rate (Lowest - Highest)	Minimum Opening Balance (Pula)
Current	NIL	NIL	
Savings	-	-	-
Sesigo	1.75% - 2.75%	1.76% - 2.78%	P200. 00
Ordinary	1.75% - 1.75%	1.76% - 1.76%	P50. 00
SAYE	1.25% - 2.00%	1.26% - 2.02%	P200. 00
Fixed Deposits			
3 Months	0.80% - 1.00%	0.80% - 1.00%	1,000. 00
6 Months	1.40% - 1.75%	1.41% - 1.76%	1,000. 00
12 Months	1.85% - 2.20%	1.87% - 2.22%	1,000. 00
24 Months	2.25% - 2.55%	2.27% - 2.58%	1,000. 00
Over 24 months	3.35% - 3.80%	3.40% - 3.87%	1,000. 00
PRIME LENDING RATE	8.01% 8.01%	8.01% 8.01%	

LENDING RATES

Lending Rates	Nominal Interest Rate	Average Effective Interest Rate
MoPR	5.50%	5.50%
Prime Lending Rate	8.01%	8.01%
Mortgage Facility	Prime to Prime + 5.00%	Prime to Prime + 5.12%
Overdraft Facility (Revolving Credit Lines)	N/A	N/A
Credit Card	N/A	N/A
Eezi Auto	Prime +3.50% to Prime +8.0%	Prime +3.56% to Prime +8.30%
Lease Loans	N/A	N/A
Unsecured Personal Loans (excluding overdraft, mortgage and credits cards)	Prime +12% to Prime +22%	Prime +12.68% to Prime +24.36%
Other Long - Term Loans	N/A	N/A

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Farmers Eye New Export Markets

Botswana is negotiating new animal-health agreements that could reopen export outlets and ease pressure on livestock farmers hit by FMD restrictions.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana is negotiating animal-health requirements with several countries in a push to widen market access for livestock and animal products, offering a potential lifeline to farmers whose selling options have been squeezed by recurring Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks and movement restrictions.

The Department of Veterinary Services revealed in its latest FMD update last Friday that negotiations on sanitary requirements with different countries are underway, with some already at an advanced stage.

"To improve market access, the department is currently negotiating sanitary (animal health) requirements with different countries some of which are at an advanced stage of conclusion," the department stated.

MORE BUYERS

If concluded, the agreements could give Botswana farmers access to additional buyers and export destinations at a time when disease-control measures have disrupted cattle movement and restricted the ability of some producers to bring livestock to market.

> "Negotiations on sanitary requirements with different countries are underway, with some already at an advanced stage."

Greater market access could also strengthen competition for Botswana cattle, potentially improving farmers' bargaining power while reducing dependence on a limited pool of buyers. For producers carrying cattle for longer because of movement restrictions, reopening trade channels could additionally ease mounting feeding and maintenance costs while restoring cash flow.

FMD FIGHT

The market-access drive comes as the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture reports progress in suppressing outbreaks in several affected areas. Three rounds of emergency vaccination have been completed in the containment zone, although cases remain unresolved in Phitshane-Molopo, Mabule and Sekhutlhane extension areas.

SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance is continuing as Botswana prepares an application to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to regain FMD-free status with vaccination after 12 months.

Following the Kgatleng outbreak, the government has also shifted its strategy along the South African border towards a "vaccination-to-live" approach, while working on a rezoning framework intended to allow unaffected areas to regain FMD-free status without vaccination more quickly.

Movement rules have consequently been revised and direct slaughter of cattle from communal areas within the containment zone, excluding areas with ongoing outbreaks, may now take place after a 30-day quarantine at approved slaughter facilities.

SBA Blasts CIPA Constitution Fees

The Small Business Association says punitive compliance costs are squeezing small firms and risk making formalisation more expensive at a time when thousands face removal from the companies register.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Small Business Association of Botswana (SBA) has blasted fees charged to existing companies for adopting constitutions, arguing that the requirement unfairly burdens small businesses as companies that missed the September 30 deadline face removal from the register.

The intervention follows the expiry of an extended deadline for companies to submit constitutions to the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA). SBA says many companies have already disappeared from CIPA's online platform following the cut-off, with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) bearing the brunt.

At the centre of the association's complaint is what it regards as an uneven fee regime between existing and newly registered businesses. "Why was constitution adoption for existing companies charged, while new companies enjoy this filing for free?" SBA asked.

BUSINESSES SQUEEZED

According to SBA, charging existing companies to comply has compounded pressure on businesses already battling high operating and regulatory costs.

"This approach has created unnecessary hardship for thousands of enterprises, especially MSMEs already struggling under high compliance costs," the association stated.

SBA said it previously proposed a tiered fee model under which businesses would be charged according to their size and financial capacity, but the proposal was not adopted.

REGIONAL COSTS

The association further argues that Botswana's corporate compliance charges compare unfavourably with those elsewhere in the region. It said a comparative report compiled after its engagement with CIPA found Botswana's fees to be among the highest regionally, potentially placing local entrepreneurs at a competitive disadvantage.

"Compliance should never be punitive," SBA stated. "Fees must be equitable and aligned with regional benchmarks."

DEADLINE EXPIRED

The Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship said last Friday that companies had already been afforded an additional six months to comply before the September 30 deadline.

It said no further administrative extension could be granted because the legally permitted period had expired. Companies that failed to comply are subject to removal from the register in accordance with the law, the ministry said, adding that restoring companies removed on that basis would require Parliament to amend the legislation.

> "Compliance should never be punitive."

Government has defended the constitution requirement as part of efforts to strengthen corporate transparency and combat money laundering and illicit financial activity.

bac
Botswana School of Business Sciences

INVITATION TO TENDER

BOTSWANA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SCIENCES	TENDER TENDERING PROCEDURES	T 1.1 TENDER NOTICE AND INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Ref No. BAC-HR-17-2026-2027 | **Closing Date**: 21st October 2026
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROVISION OF **LONG TERM (GROUP LIFE) INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES** FOR BOTSWANA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SCIENCES FOR THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS

Tender Ref No. BAC-FIN-16-2026-2027 | **Closing Date**: 20th October 2026
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROVISION OF A **SHORT-TERM INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES** FOR BOTSWANA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SCIENCES FOR THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS

Tender Ref No. BAC-IFM-19-2026-27 | **Closing Date**: 22nd October 2026
A FRAMEWORK CONTRACT FOR DOMESTIC CLEANING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 36 MONTHS AT BOTSWANA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SCIENCES, GABORONE & FRANCISTOWN CAMPUSES.

Tender Ref No.BAC/EOI/IFM/001/2026-2027 | **Closing Date**: 30th October 2026
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For more details visit: *https-//www.bac.ac.bw/tenders.php*

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Innovation Spending Fails Results Test

Botswana is pouring resources into education and innovation but remains far less successful at turning that investment into patents, technology and commercially useful products.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Botswana is investing heavily in education and other foundations of innovation but is struggling to convert those resources into patents, technology and creative products, according to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026.

The latest index, published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), ranks Botswana 82nd out of 139 economies, an improvement from 87th in 2025.

But beneath the improved overall ranking lies a significant gap between what Botswana puts into its innovation ecosystem and what it gets out.

> Botswana ranks 64th for innovation inputs but only 95th for outputs.

INPUTS OUTPACE OUTPUTS

Botswana ranks 64th globally for innovation inputs but only 95th for outputs, a gap of 31 places.

WIPO consequently assesses Botswana as performing worse in innovation outputs than inputs. Although the country's output ranking has improved significantly from 115th in 2025, results continue to lag behind the resources and conditions being put in place to support innovation.

Botswana ranks third globally for education expenditure as a proportion of GDP, at 8.06 percent. Yet only 18.14 percent of graduates were in science and engineering in 2023, placing Botswana 97th globally on that indicator.

PATENTS LAG

Botswana recorded only 11 patents by origin in 2023, a 21.43 percent decline from the previous year, placing it 93rd globally.

Botswana ranks 41st for institutions, 59th for business sophistication and 65th for market sophistication. However, it falls to 98th for infrastructure, 97th for knowledge and technology outputs and 91st for creative outputs.

INVESTMENT SLIPS

Research and Development expenditure fell by three percent between 2023 and 2024, while labour productivity declined by 2.1 percent between 2024 and 2025. Botswana also has no innovation cluster among the world's top 100.

WIPO nevertheless assesses the country's innovation performance as broadly consistent with its level of development. The GII uses roughly 80 indicators to assess innovation ecosystems worldwide.

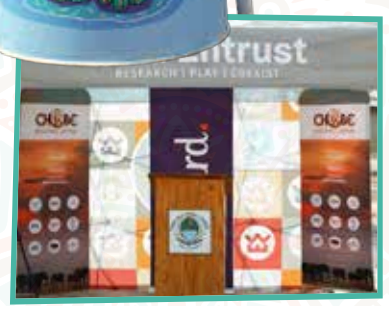


Hollard Botswana champions collective action for cleaner communities at the Feed the Bin Movement launch in Maun

















Hollard Botswana joined partners, community members and local leadership in Maun for the launch of the Feed the Bin Movement in observance of World Cleanup Day. The initiative, in support of President Boko's National Clean Up campaign under the theme: Clean, Green, Safe and Proud Botswana, brought communities together through a simple yet powerful message: a cleaner environment starts with the everyday choices of the people who share it.

Activities on the day included a community walk and litter collection, environmental awareness activities, and the donation of 50 community bins across Maun. Together, these initiatives give residents the practical tools and collective motivation to keep public spaces clean long past the launch.

It serves as a vital reminder that the responsibility for responsible waste management cannot lie with one organization or institution only. It calls for sustained action by people, companies and communities working together,

"To be on the ground in Maun was a natural extension of the way Hollard Botswana chooses to show up. Hollard exists to protect what matters to people and few things matter more than the safety, health and pride of the places they call home. For Hollard, supporting initiatives that build stronger communities where it operates is not just an occasional gesture, but a consistent commitment to creating shared value," **echoed Mr Pako Morapedi, Head of Sales, Hollard Insurance Botswana.**

By standing with local leadership and community members, Hollard Botswana demonstrated that meaningful change is built through participation, not observation. The 50 new bins in Maun are a visible symbol of that partnership, and a daily invitation to every resident to play their part.

Hollard extends its appreciation to the organisers, partners and the Maun community for their energy and commitment in bringing the Feed the Bin Movement to life.

As the movement grows, Hollard Botswana encourages everyone to dispose of waste responsibly, protect public spaces and take pride in the communities they share. Let us all continue to Feed the Bin.

Hollard.

BOFEPUSU Turns to ILO

BOFEPUSU is seeking international intervention as deteriorating relations with government threaten meaningful consultation and collective bargaining in the public service.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO



The Botswana Federation of Public, Private and Parastatal Sector Unions (BOFEPUSU) is seeking intervention from the International Labour Organization (ILO) over what it describes as deteriorating relations between organised labour and government, particularly the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM).

Addressing the media this week, BOFEPUSU President Gotlamang Oitsile said the federation wants the ILO to help address weaknesses in the labour relations framework and the relationship between government and organised labour.

Oitsile said frustration is growing among unions over how government engages them on issues affecting workers, including collective bargaining, remuneration and working conditions.

UNIONS CRY FOUL

"It is clear that unions do not have good working relations with the government, in particular DPSM. The government only wants the unions at its convenience, which is not good," Oitsile said.

The federation's concerns come amid renewed disputes between public-sector unions and government over salaries, allowances and other conditions of service.

CONSULTATION CONCERNS

BOFEPUSU has previously raised concerns about what it considers inadequate consultation and engagement by government on matters affecting public servants, warning that strained relations could undermine meaningful collective bargaining.

Its move to seek ILO intervention could bring greater scrutiny to Botswana's labour relations, particularly around freedom of association, collective bargaining and social dialogue.

DIALOGUE SOUGHT

Oitsile said the federation wants stronger and more meaningful engagement between government and organised labour.

He said ILO intervention could help facilitate dialogue between the two sides and provide guidance on mechanisms for resolving disputes and strengthening collective bargaining.

> "The government only wants the unions at its convenience."

The development comes as public-sector unions continue pushing for improved remuneration and broader reforms to the public-service employment framework.

Partners Launch Learner Empowerment Drive

A new partnership will take career guidance, TVET, entrepreneurship and personal-development programmes to schools and communities across Botswana.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Bold Bloom Africa Group, THE PLUG TVET and author Lesedi Lucia Rebaeng have partnered to deliver learner empowerment programmes focused on career guidance, personal development, entrepreneurship and technical and vocational education (TVET).

The initiative is expected to engage secondary schools and communities, giving learners access to information on career pathways, practical skills and opportunities beyond conventional academic routes.

CAREER PATHWAYS

The programme will include motivational talks, career guidance, entrepreneurship discussions, TVET awareness and personal-development sessions.

The organisers said learners will also have opportunities to interact with entrepreneurs, professionals, motivational speakers and other role models.

Founder and Director of Bold Bloom Africa Group Tsholofelo Sebifo brings experience in life coaching, motivational speaking, authorship and youth empowerment to the partnership.

PRACTICAL SKILLS

THE PLUG TVET Founder and Director Warona Baboloki Kabelo will contribute a focus on technical and vocational education, practical skills, entrepreneurship and alternative career pathways.

Author Lesedi Lucia Rebaeng will contribute through her book Fully Sponsored by God. Rebaeng, a former Matsha College student who completed Form 5 in 2012, is also employed by the Botswana Defence Force and is based at Thebephatshwa Air Base.

BEYOND SCHOOLS

The organisers plan to take the programme to secondary schools and other educational institutions in different parts of Botswana as the initiative develops.

They said the engagements are intended to provide learners with practical information and experiences that could assist them in making informed decisions about education and careers.

> "The initiative is also designed to extend into communities, with the organisers seeking to establish links between young people, businesses, professionals and youth-development organisations."



The initiative is also designed to extend into communities, with the organisers seeking to establish links between young people, businesses, professionals and youth-development organisations.

SUPPORT SOUGHT

The partners are inviting companies, organisations and individuals to support the programme through funding and logistical assistance.

Potential support areas include transport, fuel, accommodation, meals, educational materials, books, branded materials and media support.

Supporting organisations may receive recognition through the programme's social media platforms, outreach coverage and other agreed communication channels.

WIDER NETWORK

The organisers intend to document selected outreach activities through social media, including learner experiences and participation by supporting organisations.

The initiative is also intended to provide continued access to information, skills and opportunities rather than limiting engagement to individual school visits.

BNPA
Botswana Newspaper Publishers Association

FREE MEDIA
INFORMED CITIZENS
A PROSPEROUS BOTSWANA

THE VOICE OF BOTSWANA'S NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS

PRESS STATEMENT

DATE:
27 September 2026

Botswana Newspaper Publisher's Position Statement – Media Practitioners Bill, 2025

1. INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS

The Media Task Force which was responsible for considering submissions and developing recommendations on the development of the Media Practitioners Bill should have been appointed through a transparent and publicly accountable process.

Although the Task Force appears to have included a range of stakeholders, there was no transparent public appointment process, making it difficult to assess how members were selected and whether the Task Force was sufficiently representative and independent.

Task Force Members in addition to being directly appointed by Government enjoyed lucrative sitting allowances which may have had a bearing on their ability to take independent and balanced conclusions.

President Advocate Duma Boko's Government should immediately prioritize operationalizing regulations required to bring to life the Access to Information Act (Act No. 16 of 2024). It is a very progressive law that gives the public especially Batswana, a legal right to access records and documents held by public authorities. It will enable proper scrutiny of decisions by legislature and executive requiring more rigorous analysis and scrutiny. A case in point is the investment in Botswana, by philanthropist and African Hero founder Zunaid Moti.

2. CLAUSE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

1 Section 45 – Right to Rejoinder

Issue for review: Uncomfortable with the use of the term 'rejoinder.' It is the considered view of the media fraternity that the use of the term 'right of reply,' would provide greater clarity and consistency with media law and accepted international media practice. We however recognize that under International law and domestic laws of many democratic countries it is a pragmatic remedy for reputational injury. But its complexity is reflected in the fact that the U.N. Convention on the International Right of Correction is the only international treaty incorporating a version of the right of reply.

2 Section 46 – Duty to Publish Rejoinder

Issue for review: We need greater clarity around the provisions relating to responses. This is because the current drafting appears overly prescriptive regarding the remedies to be applied, especially concerning the prominence, placement and space afforded to responses. It is our view that these provisions unnecessarily limit editorial discretion.

3 Part IX Code of Ethics and Professional Standards Section 50 – Ethics Committee / Board

Issue for review: Clarify the role and institutional relationship of the Ethics Committee to other bodies expected to be established. It should be clear whether the Ethics Committee (or the Board acting through it) is intended to replace the existing self-regulatory Press Council of Botswana. The institutional relationship between the two structures should be clearly defined to avoid duplication, uncertainty or conflicting mandates. Media fraternity believes that retaining or capacitating the existing Press Council of Botswana structure, is the best way forward. Although current Press Council may not be fully operational, it is our view that its existing framework should be strengthened and revitalised

4 Section 53(2) Adherence to the Code of Ethics

Some of the issues raised under this section have the potential to become redundant and may have effect of duplicating mechanisms or measures already provided for elsewhere in the Bill or under existing legal and regulatory frameworks. These include provisions relating to advertising content, protecting privacy of individuals, allowing for fair competition, publishing defamatory articles or the professional development of journalists. Section 53(2) is not necessary in its current form, should either be amended or removed to eliminate duplication and improve legislative clarity.

5 Section 54: Authorship and Editorial Responsibility

Media fraternity objects to this provision and is opposed to Section 54 in its current form. Publishing the full names of the author of the story is the discretion of the Editor.

6 Clause 7 under Part II relating to Register of Journalists and Media Enterprises under Media Regulatory Council

The proposal to establish a statutory register of journalists and media enterprises for the purpose of professional recognition is not consistent with international best practice regarding media freedom. Journalism is generally not a licensed profession, and many democratic jurisdictions avoid mandatory statutory registration. There is no universally accepted academic or professional qualification for journalists, making it difficult to establish objective and fair registration criteria. Without clear, objective and independently administered criteria, a statutory register creates the risk that individuals could be arbitrarily excluded from practising journalism. It could become a barrier to freedom of expression and media pluralism.

7 Part VII Establishment of a Media Development Fund

The current draft of the Media Practitioners Bill does not sufficiently explain how the Fund identified under Part VII will operate or be administered. We believe that funding for independent media should be dealt with separately. Notwithstanding this position – Other areas requiring clarification:

- The purpose and objectives of the Fund.
- The sources of funding for the Fund.
- The eligibility criteria for accessing the Fund.
- The governance and administration of the Fund.
- The criteria and process for allocating funding.
- No clarity on whether financial assistance will be provided as grants, loans, or a combination of both.

8 Register of Online Media Platforms proposed under Media Practitioners Bill

The Bill proposes the maintenance of a register of online media platforms. However, the practical operation and enforceability of such a requirement require further consideration because many online platforms operate across national borders and are owned by global multinational companies that are not established within Botswana's jurisdiction. It is therefore unclear how a national registration regime would apply to or be enforced against these platforms. The Bill does not clearly distinguish between international digital platforms, locally owned online news publishers, independent digital creators and other online content providers, each of which presents different regulatory considerations. There is a risk that broad registration requirements could unintentionally impose obligations on local publishers while remaining ineffective in relation to global platforms.

BCP Presses Boko Over Magosi

The BCP is demanding answers over Peter Magosi's reported contract extension, questioning how retaining the DIS chief squares with the UDC's previous calls for intelligence reform.



SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

The Botswana Congress Party (BCP) has questioned President Duma Boko's reported decision to extend Directorate of Intelligence and Security (DIS) Director General Brigadier (Rtd) Peter Magosi's contract, asking whose interests his continued stay at the helm of the intelligence agency would serve.

In a press release, the BCP said Magosi had previously indicated before Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that he intended to leave office when his contract expired in October.

The party is now questioning the rationale for retaining him amid ongoing scrutiny of the DIS and its director general.

The BCP asked why President Boko was pushing for Magosi's continued tenure and "whose interests" his stay would serve, arguing that, in its view, those interests could not be those of Batswana.

UDC POSITION

The controversy comes amid debate over the government's handling of the intelligence agency, particularly given the UDC's previous criticism of the DIS and calls for reform of the institution.

Magosi's tenure has also come under scrutiny following confirmation by the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime (DCEC) in August that it had several active investigations involving the DIS director general. The DCEC said two of the investigations had reportedly been completed and were ready for the next stage of the legal process.

DCEC CLASH

The DCEC has previously been involved in a legal confrontation with the DIS over the 2022 raid and sealing of its offices. The Court of Appeal subsequently found that the DIS had acted unlawfully in sealing the DCEC offices.

Magosi has maintained that he serves the office of the President rather than an individual president. In a 2024 interview, he said his allegiance was to the office and that he was prepared to leave if the new administration decided his services were no longer required.

ELECTION CLAIMS

The BCP's concerns also come against earlier claims by party president Dumelang Saleshando that Boko had told him the UDC could not have won the 2024 elections without Magosi's involvement.

Those claims were publicly disputed, with the Independent Electoral Commission maintaining that the 2024 elections were free, fair, transparent and credible.

The controversy over Magosi's reported extension places fresh scrutiny on the relationship between the presidency and the intelligence agency, as well as the government's approach to DIS reform and accountability.



UNIONS WANT ALLOWANCES IN BASIC PAY

Six public-sector unions want allowances reviewed and consolidated into basic salaries as part of broader pay reforms.

SESUPO RANTSIMAKO

Six public-sector unions are proposing a systematic review of government allowances, including their possible consolidation into employees' basic salaries, as part of a broader overhaul of the public service remuneration system.

JOINT POSITION

The proposal is contained in a joint negotiating position paper submitted to the Director of the Directorate of Public Service Management (DPSM) on 29 September by the Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU), Botswana Teachers Union (BTU), Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union (BOSETU), Botswana Nurses Union (BONU), Botswana Democratic Nurses Union (BDU) and Botswana Land Boards, Local Authorities and Health Workers Union (BLLAHWU).

The unions are calling for a structured assessment of existing allowances and their role in the overall remuneration package, with consolidation into basic salary proposed as one of the options.

SALARY REFORM

The proposal forms part of a wider attempt by the unions to transform the existing public service salary structure and create a remuneration system that better reflects employees' responsibilities and working conditions.

The position paper is intended to feed into the 2027/28 Budget and covers two financial years, extending into 2028/29.

TWO-YEAR PLAN

The unions say the two-year approach is intended to give government sufficient time to plan for and implement the proposed measures while providing greater predictability in the remuneration of public servants.

The position paper also covers inflationary salary adjustments, salary structure transformation, performance-based progression and the alignment of remuneration with actual working time and service-delivery obligations.

PURCHASING POWER

The six unions are seeking a remuneration framework that restores and protects employees' purchasing power while introducing a fair and credible system of career and salary progression.

The proposed review of allowances could form part of a wider restructuring of how public servants' compensation is calculated, with the unions seeking a system that is more transparent and responsive to the changing cost of living and the nature of public-sector work.

The proposals now await government consideration as the parties enter discussions around the 2027/28 Budget and the subsequent 2028/29 financial year.

Pressure Mounts Over Dormant Tobacco Law

Councillors across Botswana warn that years of delay in implementing the Tobacco Control Act are leaving young people exposed to vaping, nicotine products and second-hand smoke.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Pressure is mounting on government to bring the long-delayed Tobacco Control Act of 2021 into force, with councillors warning that the implementation gap is leaving communities, particularly young people, increasingly exposed to tobacco and nicotine products.

The latest call came from Kgatleng District councillors during an Anti-Tobacco Network (ATN) engagement on September 24. Deputy Council Chairperson Solomon Letshwiti and fellow councillors raised concerns about youth vaping, smoking in prohibited public spaces and weak enforcement.

"We urge for stronger efforts to prevent young people from becoming dependent on tobacco and nicotine products," Councillor Mogapi Mooki said.

16 COUNCILS

According to ATN, its Clean Air Project engagements have reached 16 full councils across Botswana, where concerns have repeatedly surfaced about children's access to nicotine products, vaping and exposure to second-hand smoke.

ATN has cited the 2024 Global School-based Student Health Survey, which recorded an 11.1 percent electronic-cigarette use figure among children.

ACT STILL DORMANT

At the centre of the campaign is the Tobacco Control Act, 2021, which provides for regulation of tobacco sales, advertising, packaging and exposure to tobacco smoke. It restricts sales to people under 21 and covers electronic cigarettes and other nicotine-delivery products.

However, years after its passage, the legislation has yet to become operational.

"People smoke even where it is clearly prohibited," Charles Hill East Councillor Matthews Moapare said.

CAPITAL JOINS

Gaborone Deputy Mayor Mankie Sekete has warned that prolonged delays could leave Botswana confronting problems that become increasingly difficult to reverse.

"The Act was passed in 2021, and if it is still not in use to this day, I am afraid that we will soon find ourselves responsible for problems that we cannot come back from," Sekete said.

"The pleasant smells and flavours are fooling young people into thinking it is not as dangerous as it actually is," she said.

SWEEPING CONTROLS

The Act was passed by the National Assembly on August 16, 2021 and assented to by the President on October 18, 2021, repealing the Control of Smoking Act of 1992.

Among its provisions, it raises the minimum age for buying or selling tobacco products to 21 and prohibits smoking in enclosed public places, workplaces, vehicles and other public-access areas. It also bans tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, point-of-sale displays, vending-machine sales and the sale of single cigarettes, while setting a minimum package size of 20 cigarettes.

The Botswana Gazette
BUSINESS NEWS

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BSE Eyes Regional Dangote Role

A proposed regional structure could make the BSE the central Southern African trading venue for a Dangote refinery instrument, testing Botswana's capital-market ambitions.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) could become the central listing and trading venue for Southern African investors seeking exposure to the Dangote Petroleum Refinery IPO, giving Botswana a potentially significant role in one of Africa's biggest capital-market transactions.

HOST MARKET

Under a proposed regional structure announced jointly by the Committee of SADC Stock Exchanges (CoSSE) and the BSE on 28 September 2026, a sponsored Depository Receipt (DR) linked to Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals FZE would be listed on the BSE.

Rather than duplicating the instrument across several Southern African exchanges, the proposed model would concentrate DR trading liquidity on the Botswana bourse. Other CoSSE member exchanges would provide investors in their countries with domestic access, distribution and order-routing channels.

The arrangement would place Botswana at the centre of the proposed SADC trading architecture for the Dangote instrument, although the refinery's primary share offer remains based in Nigeria.

"The BSE, as the proposed host market for the regional DR, would provide the central listing and trading venue," CoSSE and the BSE said, with custody, settlement and market-intermediary arrangements supporting the structure.

REGIONAL LINK

The proposed arrangement forms part of CoSSE's wider market-interconnectivity programme, which is aimed at making it easier for an investor in one SADC market to access securities available in another. Participating exchanges would continue mobilising investors locally while brokers, custodians, central securities depositories and banking partners handle onboarding, subscriptions and settlement.

The announcement comes as demand for Dangote refinery shares appears to be running ahead of expectations.

Dangote Petroleum Refinery's offer opened on 14 September with 4.1 billion ordinary shares priced at N525 (P5.43) each and is scheduled to close on 13 October. The offer represents about 3.4 percent of the refinery and has been billed as Africa's largest IPO.

Dangote Group has since opened discussions with Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission over potentially increasing the number of shares available as demand from retail and institutional investors surges.

BOTSWANA DEMAND

Significantly for Botswana, Dangote told Kenyan publication Business Daily that demand originating from Botswana and Kenya alone could absorb the amount currently being sought through the offer. He reinforced the scale of investor appetite while speaking to reporters during a recent visit to Nairobi.

"Demand is there, enormous demand. In fact, I didn't know the depth of our capital markets until now, really, because we have never tested it," Dangote said.

Hosting the regional instrument would provide a test case for Botswana becoming a gateway for cross-border African securities, concentrating regional liquidity in Gaborone while connecting investors across SADC markets.

However, the BSE and CoSSE have stressed that the regional DR programme is not yet finalised. Implementation remains subject to transaction agreements and regulatory and market approvals in Botswana, Nigeria and participating CoSSE jurisdictions.

Mozambique Route Targets P2.33bn Gap

Deeper trade with Mozambique could lower Botswana's import costs, open alternative export routes and reduce dependence on South Africa as the trade deficit persists.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's push to deepen trade with Mozambique could offer a new route to easing its persistent trade deficit by lowering import costs, widening export channels and reducing heavy dependence on South Africa.

P2.33BN GAP

Statistics Botswana figures released on 25 August show that Botswana imported goods worth P7.28 billion in June 2026 against exports of P4.95 billion, leaving a P2.33 billion deficit. The import bill remains concentrated in fuel, machinery and electrical equipment and food, while South Africa alone supplied 58.3 percent of June imports.

Recent Botswana-Mozambique agreements could therefore become commercially significant. Agreements signed around the Botswana-Mozambique Business Forum are intended to deepen business links, facilitate business-to-business engagements, share market information and strengthen export promotion and investment.

OCEAN ACCESS

Speaking during the forum in Gaborone last Tuesday, Mozambique President Daniel Chapo said his country offers Botswana access to the Indian Ocean. Greater use of Mozambican port infrastructure, alongside the proposed Ponta Techobanine railway and deep-water port corridor, could create alternative routes for fuel, machinery and other goods entering Botswana.

The potential savings matter because Botswana's imports are recorded on a cost, insurance and freight (CIF) basis, meaning transport and insurance costs are built into their value. More competitive routes through Mozambique could therefore reduce logistics costs within the import bill itself.

Fuel is already a major part of the trade relationship. In June, Botswana imported P247.5 million worth of goods from Mozambique, with fuel accounting for P231.5 million, or 93.5 percent.

EXPORT PUSH

Narrowing the deficit will require more than cheaper imports. Botswana also has to sell more abroad. Mozambique provides potential opportunities in livestock products, vaccines, mining services and manufactured goods, while its ports could give Botswana exporters another gateway to international markets.

Chapo said stronger commercial cooperation between the two countries is long overdue, arguing that existing trade figures point to significant untapped potential.

"Between 2021 and 2025, Mozambique exported to Botswana $79 million worth of goods and imported around $13 million, in 2025 Botswana represented only 0.1 percent of Mozambique exportation, these figures are below our potential for both countries," Chapo stated.

Citizens First in Casino Expansion

The Gambling Authority is testing whether citizen investors have the capital and expertise to lead Botswana's next casino and bingo expansion before formal licensing begins.

BONGANI MALUNGA

The Gambling Authority is putting citizen investors at the centre of Botswana's next phase of casino and bingo development, testing local capacity before moving to formal licensing.

MARKET TEST

The Authority published an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development and operation of bingo and casino establishments on 1 September 2026. Prospective investors have until 15:00 on 16 October 2026 to submit their expressions of interest.



standard chartered

October 2026 Deposit And Lending Interest Rates

BWP - Botswana Pula

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (BWP)
Current	**0-3**	**0.00**	**0**
Call	**0.10 - 4.5**	**0.17**	**10,000.00**
Savings (Tema)	**0.50 - 2.75**	**0.72**	**500.00**
91-Days Fixed Deposit	**1.3- 8**	**1.58**	**1,000.00**
1-2 months	**0.30 - 8**	**1.42**	**1,000.00**
4-6 months	**1.50 - 8**	**1.95**	**1,000.00**
7-12 months	**2.25 - 8**	**2.37**	**1,000.00**
13-18 months	**NA**	**2.89**	**NA**
19-24 months	**2.85 - 3.20**	**2.94**	**1,000.00**
Over 24 months	**NA**	**0.00**	**NA**
Ordinary Savings	**0.00 - 0.50**	**0.08**	**100.00**
Upfront Fixed Deposits	**2.20 - 2.40**	**0.00**	**100,000.00**

GBP - British Pound

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (GBP)
Deposits			
Call	**0.00 - 0.25**	**0.00**	**2,000.00**
91-Days Fixed Deposit	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,000.00**
1-2 months	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,000.00**
4-6 months	**0.00 - 0.20**	**0.74**	**2,000.00**
7-12 months	**0.00 - 0.25**	**0.00**	**2,000.00**

ZAR - South African Rand

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (ZAR)
Deposits			
Call	**0.00 - 0.3**	**0.03**	**15,000.00**
91-Days Fixed Deposit	**0.00 - 0.80**	**-**	**200,000.00**
1-2 months	**0.00 - 0.3**	**-**	**200,000.00**
4-6 months	**0.00 - 1.25**	**-**	**200,000.00**
7-12 months	**0.00 - 1.8**	**-**	**200,000.00**

EUR - Euro

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (EUR)
Deposits			
Call	**0.00 - 0.17**	**0.01**	**2,000.00**
91-Days Fixed Deposit	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,000.00**
1-2 months	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,000.00**
4-6 months	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,000.00**
7-12 months	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,000.00**

USD - American Dollar

Type of Deposit Account	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)	Minimum Opening Balance (USD)
Deposits			
Call	**0.00 - 0.7**	**-**	**3,000.00**
91-Days Fixed Deposit	**0.00 - 0.15**	**-**	**3,000.00**
1-2 months	**0.00 - 2.68**	**0.06**	**3,000.00**
4-6 months	**0.00 - 0.28**	**0.65**	**3,000.00**
7-12 months	**0.00 - 0.25**	**0.13**	**3,000.00**

Lending Interest Rates

Lending	Nominal Interest Rate (%)	Average Effective Interest Rate (%)
Monetary Policy rate	**5.50**	**5.50**
Prime Rate	**7.76**	**7.76**
Mortgage Rate	**Prime +0.5 to Prime +17**	**8.46**
Overdraft Rate (revolving credit lines)	**Prime +2**	**0.22**
Credit Card Rate	**0 to 34.80**	**38.01**
Lease Financing	**NA**	**NA**
Personal loans	**Prime to Prime + 18**	**13.17**
Other long term loan rates	**6.51 - 14.51**	**9.69**

Debit Interest Rate on Unauthorised Overdraft: Prime Lending Rate + 12%. The Prime Lending Rate of 7.76% as published, has been independently determined by SCBB.

1- Nominal Interest Rate: This is the real interest rate + inflation rate
2- Average Effective Interest Rate: This is the actual interest rate which can be earned on an asset over a given period of time.

Please contact our 24/7 Client Care Centre on **+267 361 5800** for more information.

Standard Chartered Bank is a member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana.

Terms and Conditions apply

The regulator says the exercise is designed to establish whether Batswana have the financial capacity, technical expertise and appetite to participate meaningfully in the industry before licences are rolled out.

Speaking on national television on Monday, Acting Director, Responsible Gambling and Corporate Affairs Linnet Mafukidze said the process would help the Authority determine the level of citizen investor readiness while keeping local ownership and employment central to future developments.

"We want to find out if Batswana are suitably qualified investors who want to participate in this industry before we can start with the licensing process, this is a precursor before the actual licensing arrangement," Mafukidze said.

NOT LICENSING

The EOI is not the licensing process itself. It is an exploratory exercise intended to assess market interest, identify prospective investors with the necessary capacity and help shape the requirements of the eventual licensing process.

According to the Authority's EOI, the information gathered will also inform future regulatory planning, licence specifications and application requirements.

Prospective companies will be expected to demonstrate both the financial strength and technical capability required to develop and operate bingo or casino establishments.

Citizen investors who may not independently possess all the required expertise or capital will still have room to participate. Mafukidze said local companies may form joint ventures or collaborate with other investors to strengthen their technical, financial or operational capabilities.

CITIZEN CONTROL

Such partnerships will have to preserve strong citizen participation. The Gambling Authority will require qualifying arrangements to demonstrate majority citizen shareholding, while proposed investments will also be assessed on their ability to generate employment opportunities for Batswana.

The process gives the regulator an opportunity to establish where local investment capacity exists, where gaps remain and whether partnerships will be required before the formal licensing window opens.

Mafukidze said the Authority wants the next phase of Botswana's gambling industry expansion to bring not only new casino and bingo operations, but also greater citizen ownership, investment participation and local job creation. Interested investors have until 16 October to demonstrate that capacity before the Authority moves towards the next stage of its licensing rollout.

BDC Reverses P171m Loss

A one-year turnaround restored BDC to profit as stronger income, tighter costs, asset recycling and lower impairments reversed the previous year's losses.



BONGANI MALUNGA

The Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) has returned to profitability after an aggressive one-year turnaround programme reversed a P171 million loss and restored the state investment company to the black.

BACK IN BLACK

For the financial year ended 30 June 2026, BDC recorded P14 million profit before tax, which it said represented a P191 million turnaround from the P171 million loss posted in the previous financial year. Profit after tax reached P20.5 million, compared with a P167.7 million loss in FY2025.

The Corporation described the recovery as the result of a deliberate turnaround programme implemented under close board supervision.

"FY2026 marked BDC's return to profitability, the result of concerted efforts by the management team, under close Board oversight, to execute an aggressive turnaround plan within a single financial year," BDC stated in its financials for the year ended 30 June 2026.

INCOME REBOUND

The rebound was driven by stronger income, tighter cost control and lower credit-related charges. BDC's total company income rose 11 percent to P485 million from P437 million a year earlier, while operating expenses fell 4 percent to P147 million. Combined credit and valuation charges also fell sharply as the Corporation strengthened recovery efforts and cleaned up problematic exposures.

Dividend income was a major contributor, jumping to P239 million from P78 million. BDC said this included proceeds generated from the disposal of property at subsidiary level under its asset recycling programme.

ASSET RECYCLING

BDC has increasingly turned to asset recycling, disposing of underperforming or non-core assets and redirecting the capital into new investments. During FY2026, the programme released P614 million for debt servicing and reinvestment into the investment pipeline.

The Corporation also tightened the quality of reported earnings. Interest income from loans fell to P142 million from P263 million after management deliberately stopped accruing interest on non-performing loans. BDC said the move was intended to ensure that income reflects money it reasonably expects to collect, while outstanding amounts continue to be pursued through recovery processes.

Expected credit losses at company level dropped 62 percent to P45 million from P119 million, following what BDC described as intensified workout and recovery efforts and stronger portfolio monitoring.

NEW MONEY

The cleanup of the old book was accompanied by a sharp acceleration in new investment. BDC disbursed P855 million during FY2026, nearly 20 times the previous year's level. Of that amount, 62 percent went to established, cash-generative counterparties, while company investment assets grew 9 percent to P3.2 billion.

Liquidity also strengthened considerably. BDC moved from an overdrawn cash position of P22 million to positive company cash, while operating activities generated P59 million compared with a P169 million outflow in the previous year. Group cash climbed to P345 million from P77 million.

GROUP LAGS

However, the turnaround has not yet fully filtered through to the consolidated BDC Group. While the Corporation returned to profit, the Group recorded a P22 million loss before tax and a P78 million loss after tax, largely reflecting weaker conferencing activity and subsidiaries that are still building towards full operating capacity. Group operating profit nevertheless remained positive at P78 million.

BDC says FY2027 will focus on extending the turnaround to the Group through individual value-creation plans for portfolio companies, improved operating performance, stronger governance and scaling businesses that remain in their ramp-up phase.

The Corporation enters that phase with a P1.63 billion active investment pipeline and plans to deploy a further P1.39 billion over the next two years across manufacturing, energy, agriculture, healthcare, hospitality, financial services and technology.

BPOPF Backs Letshego Reset

BPOPF will underwrite Letshego's P800 million rights offer as the lender cuts debt, shrinks its African footprint and pursues a lower-risk regional strategy.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Letshego Africa Holdings is turning to shareholders for P800 million in fresh equity as the financial services group moves to cut debt, strengthen its balance sheet and build a smaller, lower-risk regional business.

BPOPF BACKING

According to a Letshego Africa Holdings Limited press release published on 29 September 2026, the proposed rights offer will see the Botswana Stock Exchange-listed group issue approximately 1.096 billion new ordinary shares at P0.73 each. The offer price represents an approximately 13.1 percent discount to the 30-day volume-weighted average traded price.

The capital raise has the full backing of Letshego's largest shareholder, the Botswana Public Officers Pension Fund (BPOPF), which owns approximately 37.2 percent of the company and has agreed to fully underwrite the rights offer.

The underwriting gives Letshego greater certainty over the capital raise and signals significant institutional backing for a strategic reset that is reshaping the group into a leaner regional operation anchored in Botswana.

SMALLER FOOTPRINT

Letshego said it is simplifying its African portfolio through the proposed disposal of businesses in Ghana, Tanzania, Rwanda, Nigeria and Uganda, a transaction shareholders approved on 19 June 2026. The restructuring is designed to reduce exposure to more volatile markets, simplify the operating model and focus capital and management attention on stronger retained businesses.

Once the portfolio repositioning is completed, Letshego's continuing footprint will comprise Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Kenya and Eswatini.

The P800 million injection therefore forms part of a broader effort to strengthen Letshego's balance sheet while reducing the size and risk profile of the group.

"The proposed rights issue represents a considered step in strengthening Letshego's capital base."

DEBT RESET

Letshego said proceeds from the rights offer will primarily be used to reduce debt at holding-company level, including settling amounts owed to certain shareholders and transaction-related costs. The additional capital will also give the group greater capacity to allocate resources to priority markets and pursue strategic opportunities.

The restructuring comes against improving performance from the businesses Letshego intends to retain. Continuing operations delivered P284 million in profit in the 2025 financial year, representing a 362 percent improvement, while net impairments fell 77 percent and the loan-loss ratio improved to 1 percent, according to the September press release.

Letshego is also reshaping the way it funds its lending activities. Customer deposits increased 64 percent to P3.5 billion, while deposits from continuing operations rose 43 percent to P2.24 billion, supporting a push towards a more diversified and lower-cost funding model.

TARGETS AHEAD

Its strategic direction includes reducing reliance on higher-cost wholesale debt, expanding deposit-led funding, maintaining disciplined credit underwriting, improving operating efficiency and concentrating resources in stronger and more stable markets.

The company has set longer-term targets including a return on assets of between 3 and 5 percent, return on equity of between 20 and 25 percent, a cost-to-income ratio of between 40 and 45 percent and debt-to-equity below 100 percent. Letshego cautioned that the targets are forward-looking and do not guarantee future performance.

Letshego Group Chief Executive Officer Reinette van der Merwe said the rights issue formed part of efforts to prepare the company for its next phase. "The proposed rights issue represents a considered step in strengthening Letshego's capital base and positioning the Group for its next phase," she said.

She added that BPOPF's underwriting reflected "strong institutional support for the transaction and confidence in the long-term potential of a more focused, resilient and profitable Letshego."

The rights offer is expected to open at 09:00 on 23 October 2026 and close at 16:00 on 6 November 2026, while trading in the rights is scheduled for 23 to 30 October. The new shares are expected to begin trading on the Botswana Stock Exchange on 20 November 2026.

Botswana Power Output Hits Decade High

Domestic generation has reached a ten-year high and power imports have plunged, strengthening government's ambition to turn Botswana into a regional electricity exporter.



BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's ambition to shift from power importer to regional electricity exporter is gaining support from official figures, with domestic generation at its highest level in a decade and reliance on imported electricity falling sharply.

DECADE HIGH

Statistics Botswana's Electricity Generation and Distribution Stats Brief for the second quarter of 2026, released on 29 September, shows that the country generated 994 522 megawatt-hours (MWh) between April and June. That was 56.6 percent higher than the 635 194 MWh recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2025.

Generation was also 10.3 percent higher than the 901 903 MWh produced during the first quarter of 2026, with Statistics Botswana describing the Q2 output as the highest level of domestic electricity generation recorded in the past 10 years.

IMPORTS TUMBLE

The surge in local production has had an immediate effect on Botswana's dependence on regional electricity supplies. Power imports plunged 59.4 percent year on year, dropping from 451 754 MWh in the second quarter of 2025 to 183 191 MWh during the same period this year. Imports were also 16.8 percent lower than the 220 305 MWh recorded in the first quarter.

Statistics Botswana attributed the reduction largely to improved domestic generation and increased availability of solar power, which enabled Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) to prioritise locally generated renewable electricity over more expensive variable-priced imports.

Domestic generation accounted for 84.4 percent of electricity distributed during the quarter, an important shift as government looks beyond meeting local demand towards building enough capacity to trade electricity across Southern Africa.

EXPORT AMBITION

Minister of Minerals and Energy Bogolo Kenewendo outlined that ambition at the Unstoppable Africa forum on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 23 September, six days before Statistics Botswana released the latest generation figures.

"Sovereignty isn't only about building generation for domestic demand, but it's also ensuring that the region is well catered for and is able to develop. And one of the projects and our ambitions is to ensure that we generate sufficiently to be able to trade in the region and to strengthen the Southern Africa power pool," Kenewendo said.

She said Botswana has been working on electricity agreements with South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe as part of efforts to strengthen the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) and position the country for greater regional electricity trading.

COAL DOMINATES

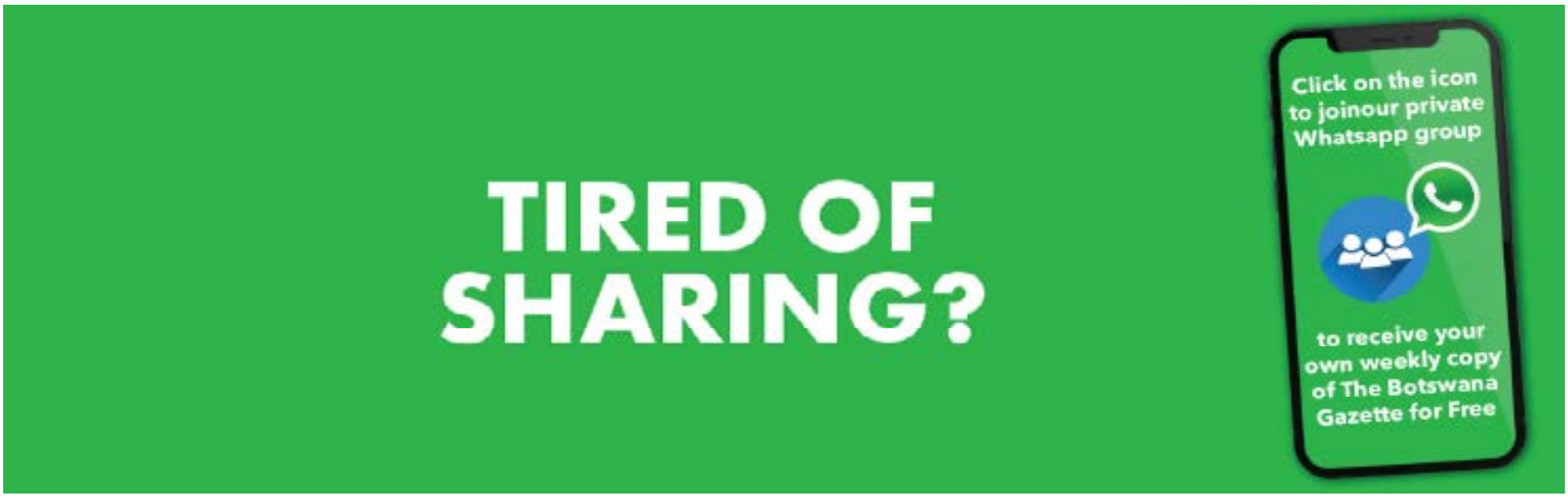
Despite the significant reduction in imports, the Q2 figures underline Botswana's continued connection to the regional electricity market. Of the 183 191 MWh imported during the quarter, 73.9 percent came from Eskom, while 15.8 percent was sourced through cross-border arrangements and 10.3 percent through SAPP markets.

> "By the end of next year, we anticipate that Botswana will not have only met the capacity for domestic demand but to be able to export by at least over 100 megawatts to the region."

Domestic electricity production also remains heavily reliant on coal. Morupule A and B contributed 894 024 MWh, or 89.9 percent, of locally generated electricity during Q2, while solar plants supplied 97 361 MWh, representing 9.8 percent. Emergency diesel generation accounted for only 0.3 percent.

The generation mix provides context to government's broader renewable-energy ambitions. Kenewendo said renewable energy accounted for 8 percent of Botswana's energy mix in 2023, against a government target of achieving a 50-50 split between renewable and conventional energy by 2030.

"Currently, this year, we're sitting at 40%, which means we have accelerated quite a bit," she said. Beyond reducing imports, government's next target is to create an exportable power surplus. "By the end of next year, we anticipate that Botswana will not have only met the capacity for domestic demand but to be able to export by at least over 100 megawatts to the region," Kenewendo said.



Growth Returns, Households Wait



Botswana's 8.7% Q2 growth masks falling household consumption, weak non-mining activity and unresolved questions about whether diamond production is translating into cash, jobs and sustainable investment.

DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

Botswana's economy grew by an impressive 8.7% in the second quarter of 2026. Yet household consumption fell by 7.3%, manufacturing contracted and the economy outside mining barely moved backwards. These apparently contradictory figures describe a country producing more wealth on paper while many families have less to spend. Economic success must ultimately reach households, strengthen public finances and generate income capable of sustaining investment.



DIAMOND REBOUND

Mining and quarrying expanded by 81.7% compared with the second quarter of 2025, with diamond mining value added rising by 94.7%. Botswana's diamond production reached 5.49 million carats, more than double the level recorded a year earlier. These increases explain much of the headline growth, but they also reflect comparison with a depressed production base. A large percentage rebound following a severe downturn does not necessarily signal renewed prosperity.

The market figures tell a less encouraging story. De Beers' consolidated rough diamond sales value fell by 44% to US$665 million, while its average realised price dropped by 37% to US$110 per carat. Botswana's production figures and De Beers' consolidated sales figures cover different geographical scopes, so they cannot establish precisely how much Botswana's diamond inventory increased. Nevertheless, their divergence raises an uncomfortable possibility: a substantial part of the recovery may represent diamonds moving from the ground into storage rather than into customers' hands.



National accounts record production even when goods remain unsold. Inventory accumulation therefore contributes to measured GDP, although it does not immediately deliver export receipts or the cash associated with sales. Stored diamonds retain potential value, but that value depends on future buyers and prices. Rising production should consequently be welcomed cautiously until sales demonstrate that the market can absorb it.

BENEATH HEADLINES

Diamond cutting and polishing contracted by 21.4%, a troubling result for Botswana's ambition to capture more value domestically through beneficiation. Rail contracted by 33.2%, a decline that warrants scrutiny as Botswana considers major new railway investments. Public administration remained the largest contributor to nominal GDP, accounting for 18.2%, illustrating the continuing weight of the state in the economy.

The quarter's different growth measures also require careful reading. Real GDP rose by 1.3% from the first quarter, but nominal GDP fell by 4.4% to P70.04 billion. These measure different things: inflation-adjusted output increased while



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its value at current prices declined. The quarterly estimates are provisional and not seasonally adjusted, so the movements should be interpreted cautiously.

HOUSEHOLD SQUEEZE

The clearest evidence that recovery has yet to spread is the 7.3% decline in household consumption. Total final consumption fell by 3%, despite government consumption increasing by 2.4%. Public spending provided some support, but could not offset the contraction in household demand. Agriculture contracted by 23%, manufacturing by 9.2% and construction by 1.6%. Diamond trading fell by 27.9%.

Livestock activity was particularly badly affected. The review records a 47.8% contraction, alongside foot-and-mouth



disease restrictions and sharply reduced cattle sales to the Botswana Meat Commission. Meat processing fell by 61%. Some services continued growing, but these gains were insufficient to produce overall growth outside mining: non-mining GDP contracted by 0.2%.

That is the diversification warning. Botswana remains capable of recording strong national growth through diamonds while much of its broader productive economy struggles.

INFLATION PRESSURE

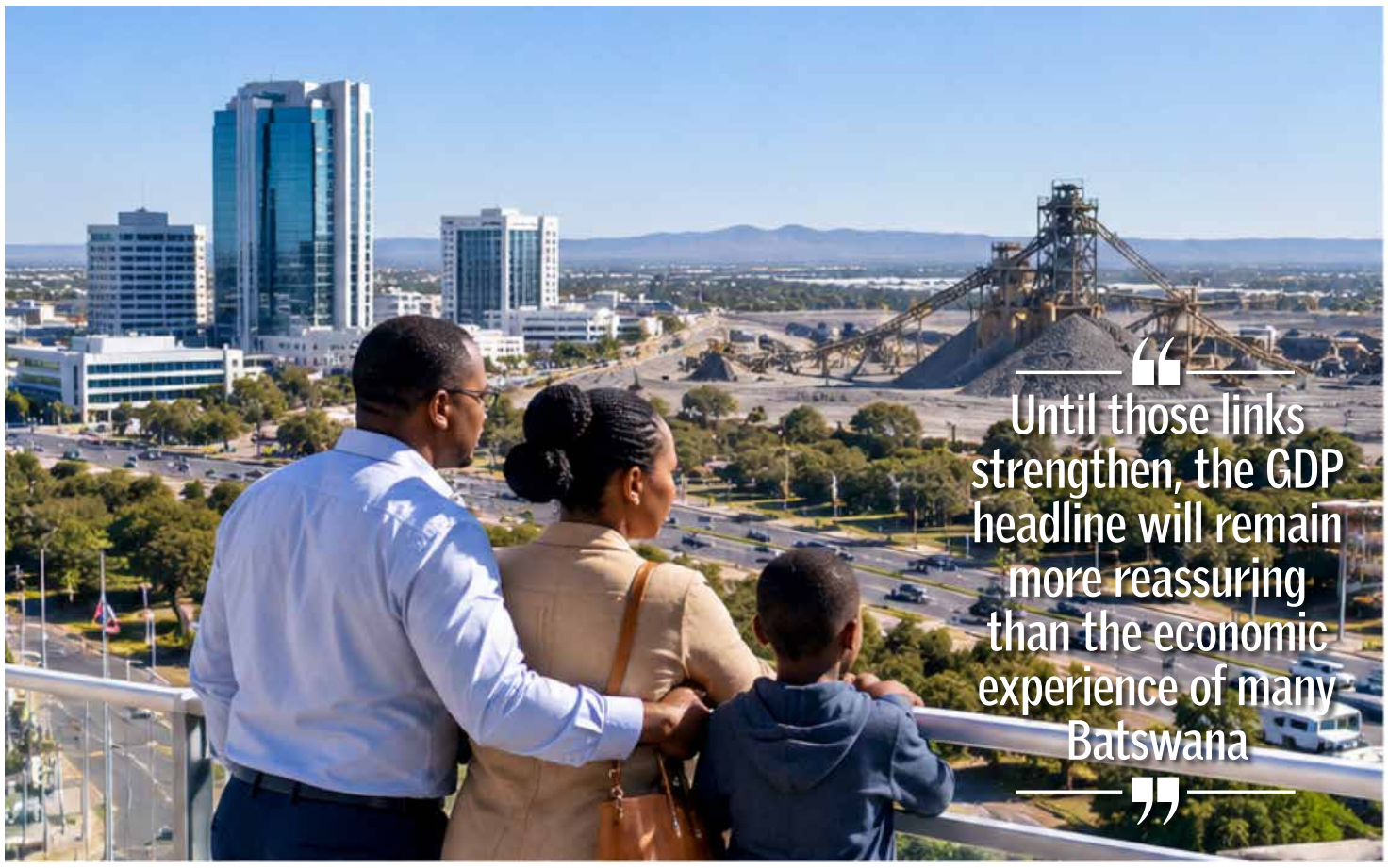
Households also face rising prices. Inflation stood at 9.3% in August, well above the Bank of Botswana's 3 to 6% objective range and the 1.4% recorded a year earlier. Imported tradeables inflation reached 13%, while an electricity tariff increase contributed to domestic price pressure. The Monetary Policy Rate stood at 5.5% in September.

Weak household demand would ordinarily strengthen the case for easier monetary conditions, but elevated inflation constrains that response. For businesses, higher turnover may simply reflect higher prices rather than more customers or stronger sales volumes. For households, inflation reduces purchasing power precisely when consumption is already contracting.

FISCAL WARNING

September's sovereign credit rating decisions underline the pressure on public finances. S&P affirmed Botswana's BBB– rating with a negative outlook. Moody's lowered its rating from Baa1 to Baa2, while changing the outlook from negative to stable. Both retain Botswana within investment grade, but S&P's negative outlook remains a significant warning. The agencies' concerns centre on weak diamond demand, fiscal pressures, limited diversification and depleted financial buffers.

Foreign exchange reserves of P59.1 billion in June provide a meaningful cushion. Continuing trade deficits nevertheless show why that cushion requires protection. The fiscal challenge is to rebuild buffers while financing essential services and productive investment. More borrowing increases the importance of demonstrating what each investment will earn or save.



DE BEERS TRANSITION

Anglo American's planned disposal of De Beers introduces further uncertainty. For Botswana, greater ownership could increase influence over a strategically important company. It could also deepen public exposure to the industry already responsible for much of the country's export earnings and fiscal volatility. The decisive questions concern the purchase price, financing, future capital requirements and sustainable cash distributions. Strategic importance alone cannot establish that an acquisition offers an attractive financial return.

"That is the diversification warning. Botswana remains capable of recording strong national growth through diamonds while much of its broader productive economy struggles"

Pension investors face similar considerations. Their members' employment and domestic investments are already affected by Botswana's diamond cycle. Additional diamond exposure could intensify that concentration.



PAYING ASSETS

The Botswana Economic Transformation Programme offers potential investment opportunities, but inclusion in a government programme does not make a project suitable for pension savings. The review identifies contracted electricity generation as the clearest demonstrated model for relatively predictable, recurring revenue. A properly structured power purchase agreement establishes a buyer, tariff and payment arrangements, making income easier to assess. Scatec's completed 120 MW Mmadinare Solar Cluster, operating under a 25-year agreement with Botswana Power Corporation, illustrates the model. Energy still carries risks. Investors must examine the purchaser's ability to pay, grid access, curtailment, maintenance and currency exposure.

Mega transport schemes require particular caution. The proposed Trans-Kalahari Railway and new airports involve substantial costs and uncertain demand. Pension commitments should depend on independent feasibility studies, conservative traffic assumptions and enforceable customer contracts. The encouraging domestic signal is the 7.8% increase in fixed investment. Its eventual value will depend on whether it creates employment, strengthens local suppliers and improves productivity.

Botswana's recovery now faces a practical test: whether diamonds become sales, investment becomes household income and borrowing builds assets that pay their way. Until those links strengthen, the GDP headline will remain more reassuring than the economic experience of many Batswana.



Feel the Future

The National Sentiment Paradox asks why a country feels most united when celebration gives people a role in tomorrow, not only a view of yesterday.

MANUEL VEIRUAPI RUHAPO | THE BRAND PARADOX

An independence anniversary is not measured only by crowds, fireworks or anthems. The deeper question is whether people leave feeling they belong to a future they can help build.

Botswana's 60th Independence Day was a substantial public occasion. BOTS60, under the theme Building Resilience, Driving Prosperity, moved the main celebration to Gaborone's Main Mall for the first time. It combined a carnival, disciplined services and creative work. Independence Eve included a retreat parade, performances, a drone show and fireworks. Coverage also recorded district programmes and a strong turnout. 1 2

America's 250th anniversary also included community events, volunteering, story collection and a student startup competition. The U.S. State Department recorded national celebrations, parades and fireworks. 3 4

The point is not that BOTS60 or America250 lacked celebration. The public record says otherwise. Nor does it provide a shared measure proving one anniversary was more impactful than TAICU, which coordinated Botswana's twentieth anniversary in 1986, or BOTS50. 5

But the comparison people instinctively make still matters. It asks a more human question: did the occasion feel like something done for citizens, or something citizens did together?

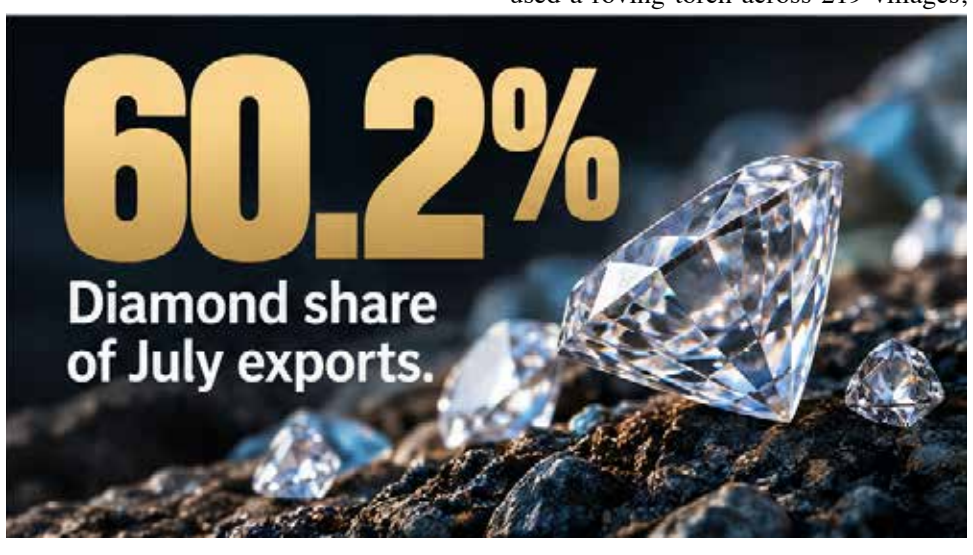
THE PARTICIPATION PARADOX

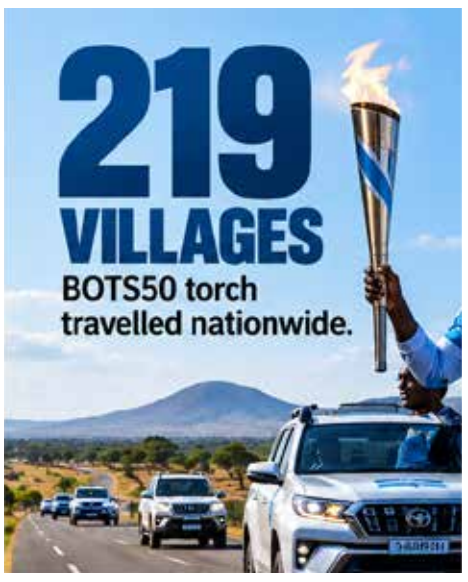
The Participation Paradox is that national sentiment becomes stronger when a celebration is less about watching a country perform and more about people recognising their place in it.

Social cohesion is not a flag, anthem or compulsory agreement. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe describes it as social bonds, or glue, that connect people. Its dimensions include trust, belonging, recognition, inclusion, civic engagement and shared values. 6

That matters because it distinguishes national sentiment from noise. A stadium can be full and people can still feel distant. A modest local activity can create a stronger bond if it gives people a voice and a contribution.

BOTS60 contained elements of that possibility. The Main Mall made room for a public carnival, while districts were encouraged to develop programmes reflecting their identities. 1 BOTS50 also used a roving torch across 219 villages,





district committees and local artists. 7

The lesson is not that one format is better. Sentiment is built through participation. A celebration feels national when a tailor in Kanye, a dancer in Francistown, a choir in Maun, a student in Molepolole and a vendor in Gaborone can recognise themselves in it.

Research on national holidays gives the same warning. Audiences participate, avoid, reinterpret and sometimes challenge ritual. 8 A serious celebration leaves room for many forms of belonging.

THE REALITY PARADOX

The Reality Paradox is that national confidence is most credible when it can hold pride and pressure at the same time.

A country cannot create durable sentiment by pretending difficulty does not exist. Nor should hardship erase achievement. The task is a public story honest enough to be trusted and ambitious enough to move people.

Botswana's economic data make this balance important. Statistics Botswana reported that real GDP grew 8.7% year on year in the second quarter of 2026, mainly because Mining and Quarrying grew 81.7%. Yet GDP excluding mining declined 0.2% in the same period. 9

The trade figures carry the same message. Diamonds accounted for 60.2% of Botswana's merchandise exports in July 2026, with copper at 23.1%. The World Bank, using a broader reporting period, describes diamonds as approximately 80% of total exports and argues for diversification, stronger private sector conditions and better aligned skills. 10 11

These numbers do not tell us how Batswana felt on Independence Day. They explain why Building Resilience, Driving Prosperity needs to be more than a line on a stage. Confidence is easier to sustain when citizens can see routes into work, enterprise and skill.

America250 offers one practical illustration. Its startup competition offers student participants more than US$1 million in prizes, mentoring and a Washington pitch opportunity. The programme does not resolve the United States' economic or social pressures. But it connects commemoration to a visible invitation: build something that matters next. 3

Botswana's next milestone could connect Independence programming to district problem solving, paid commissions for local creators, youth enterprise pathways or platforms for cultural producers to reach buyers. These are opportunities, not current programmes. Their value would be in letting more people see themselves as contributors, not guests.

WHAT IT MEANS

Business owners and executives: A national occasion is not only a sponsorship moment. Support participation people can experience: local procurement, paid creative work, skills access, community problem solving or entrepreneur platforms. Measure outputs and do not present attention as proof of impact.

Marketing professionals: Use national symbols with care. Sentiment deepens when work reflects real lives, local languages, creators and communities. Invite contribution rather than demanding applause.

Brand managers: Track more than reach. Measure participation, repeat involvement, partner retention, creator payment, local supplier inclusion and community feedback. Sentiment cannot be reduced to one metric, but it can be treated seriously.

National sentiment is not created by insisting that people feel proud. It is created when people can see that their contribution counts, their reality is recognised and their future is included.

Botswana at 60 did celebrate. The enduring question is whether the next decade gives more Batswana a reason to feel that the celebration belonged to them.

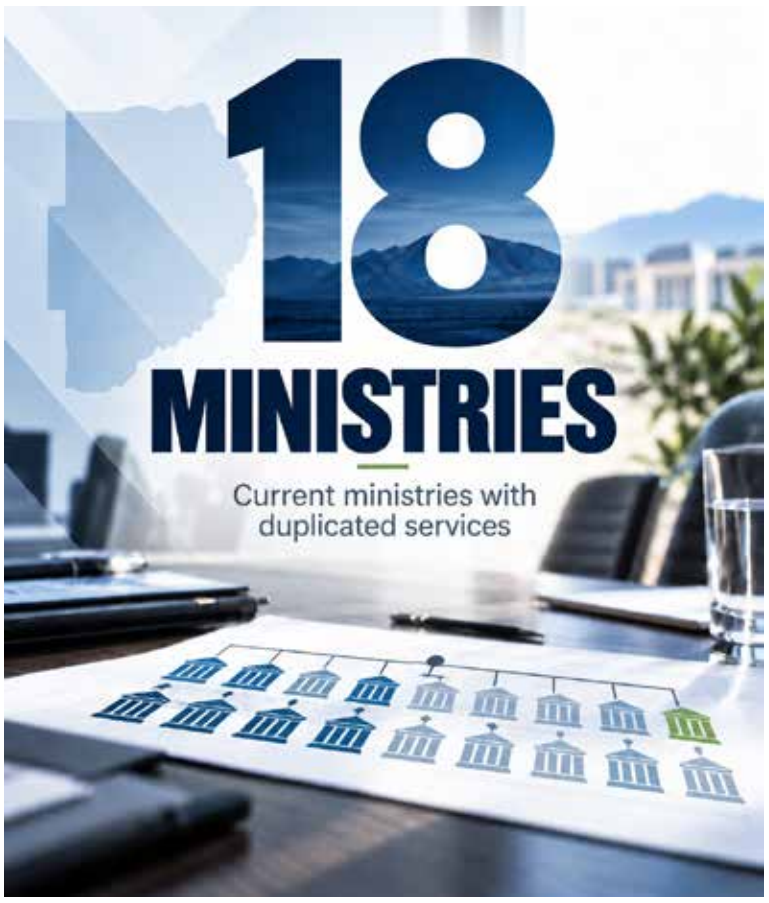


The Brand Paradox is a weekly column by Manuel Veiruapi Ruhapo that explores the counterintuitive truths behind building great brands in Botswana and beyond. Manuel Ruhapo is the founder of Blacmarc Group, a brand strategy consultancy Agencies that helps businesses solve their most complex brand challenges. Contact me on : manuel.ruhapo@blacmarc.co.bw/ruhapo@gmail.comContact me on: manuel.ruhapo@blacmarc.co.bw/ruhapo@gmail.com

Rebuilding the State

A 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank proposal argues that Botswana can cut duplicated government machinery, reorganise the state around outcomes and place public enterprises under professional commercial management.





DR DOUGLAS RASBASH

Botswana's next chapter requires a government that costs less to administer and delivers more to its citizens. A new 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank report puts institutional reform at the centre of the transitional challenge. Botswana has spent six decades building the state. The task now is to rebuild its machinery for an economy that can no longer assume diamonds will pay for its continued expansion. This is not simply a question of cutting expenditure. A government can spend less and perform worse. The more demanding question is whether Botswana can reduce administrative duplication while improving the services, infrastructure and economic opportunities on which citizens depend.

REFORM MOMENTUM

At the September 24 consultation on the proposed State-Owned Enterprise Ownership Policy, Vice President and Minister of Finance Ndaba Gaolathe acknowledged the contribution public enterprises had made to Botswana's development, while arguing that tighter finances and rising public expectations required a different approach. State ownership, he indicated, should rest on a genuine economic, strategic or social purpose. Reporting on the proposals on September 29, Mmegi highlighted possible consequences for enterprises that no longer justified their place in public ownership: restructuring, mergers, private-sector partnerships, divestiture or closure.

The 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank's government restructuring policy report takes this argument further. It asks whether the architecture of government itself has become an obstacle to the outcomes Botswana now needs.

FRAGMENTED STATE

The report recognises the achievements of Botswana's public administration. The institutions developed after independence helped extend education, healthcare, roads and water services across a large and sparsely populated country. Their contribution should neither be dismissed nor confused with the question of whether their present organisation remains appropriate.

Over time, however, ministries, departments and agencies have accumulated a question-

> "The ultimate measure of reform must be the citizen's experience."

able level of independence. Each institution brings its own leadership, reporting requirements and administrative machinery. Human resources, finance, procurement, information technology, communications and facilities management are repeatedly reproduced across government. The logic of separating agriculture from industry when the future lies in agro-processing, or mining from downstream value addition, also runs counter to policy. The need to maximise synergy out of silos could not be greater.

FIVE DEPARTMENTS

The report proposes reorganising government into five integrated Departments of State, grouping related responsibilities around the outcomes they should achieve. Each department would retain specialist expertise while bringing planning, budgets, administrative systems and accountability into a coherent framework.



The Department of Human Development and Social Equity would bring together education, health, labour, youth, gender, social protection, sport, arts and culture. Success would be judged by improvements in people's lives, including learning, health, access to work and reduced vulnerability.

The Department of Economic Transformation and Innovation would combine finance and economics, trade, industry, tourism, agriculture, science and technology, and minerals. It would also house the proposed SOE holding company. Its central task would be to expand productive activity, employment and value creation beyond diamonds.

The Department of Economic Infrastructure and Enablers would integrate transport, energy, water, ICT and public infrastructure. These systems determine whether households can access services and businesses can operate competitively.

The Department of Security, Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation would bring together defence, immigration, nationality, foreign affairs, intelligence, security, cyber security and disaster risk management. Border management would support both security and legitimate movement, while diplomacy would advance cooperation on trade, infrastructure and shared risks.

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The Department of Governance, Justice and Public Service would encompass justice, traditional leadership, local government, land, environment and national development planning. It would support the rule of law, strengthen public administration and coordinate national planning and performance assessment.

Shared services for human resources, budgeting, accounting, procurement, transport, IT support, legal advice and other common functions would reduce repeated administrative machinery. The deeper principle is that government administration should cease expanding automatically with

> The need to maximise synergy out of silos could not be greater.

the economy. A more prosperous Botswana should be able to provide better public services through stronger institutions and higher productivity, without continually multiplying offices, management layers and processing costs.

COMMERCIAL STATE

SOE reform should aim beyond improved supervision of individual public enterprises. The 2RPTT proposal envisages a Botswana State Enterprise Holdings Group: a corporatised, diversified industrial giant, ultimately listed on the Botswana Stock Exchange, bringing major public commercial assets under professional ownership and management. Hon Gaolathe's proposed ownership policy envisages a hybrid arrangement in which line ministries retain strategic responsibility alongside consolidated oversight. The think tank's proposed model would make a more decisive break, removing line ministries entirely from shareholder functions, board appointments and enterprise management. Ministers would determine public policy within their lawful mandates, while independent regulators would regulate. Commercial decisions would belong to the holding group's professionally appointed board and management.

The purpose would be to build a substantial Botswana enterprise spanning utilities, energy, transport, communications, industry and investment. Separate operating subsidiaries would retain their technical expertise, while the parent group would allocate capital, coordinate investment, develop commercial opportunities and impose consistent financial discipline. An indicative starting portfolio would include Botswana Power Corporation, Water Utilities Corporation, Botswana Oil, Botswana Railways, Air Botswana, BotswanaPost, Botswana Fibre Networks and Botswana Development Corporation.

Listing the parent group on the BSE would allow citizens, pension funds and other investors to participate in a diversified portfolio of national enterprises. Government could retain a controlling shareholding, while ownership would be exercised through transparent corporate arrangements rather than ministerial direction. Listing would follow restructuring, credible valuations, audited accounts and a demonstrable investment case.

PUBLIC SERVICE

There are at least 15 similar and duplicated sets of administration and corporate services commonly provided in each of the 18 ministries which the report argues should be rationalised. Together they employ about 1000 officials. The report sets out a central scenario of approximately P25 billion to P30 billion in cumulative savings over ten years. It also anticipates increasing efficiency measures to reduce overheads

> A government can spend less and perform worse.

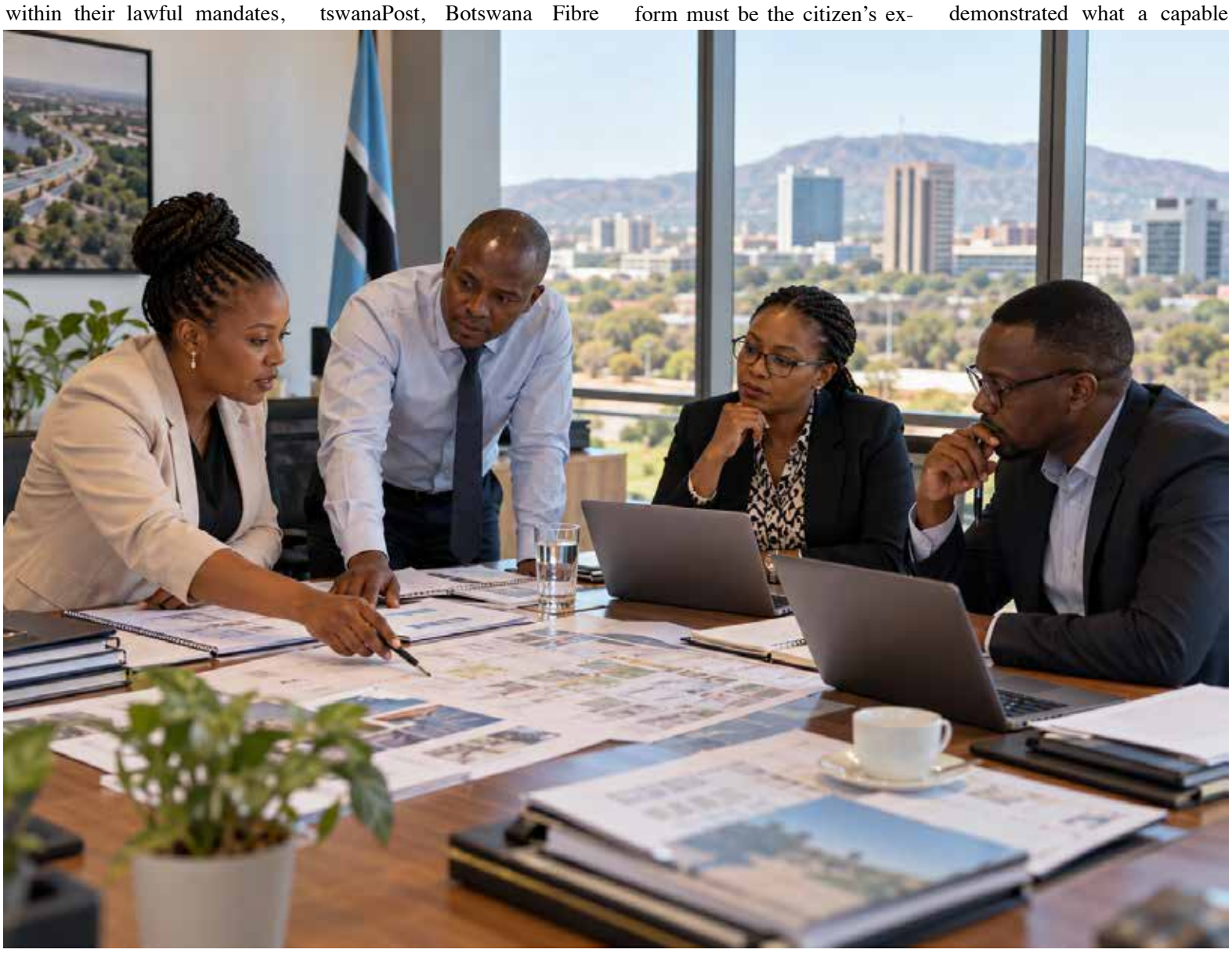
and the growing application of artificial intelligence.

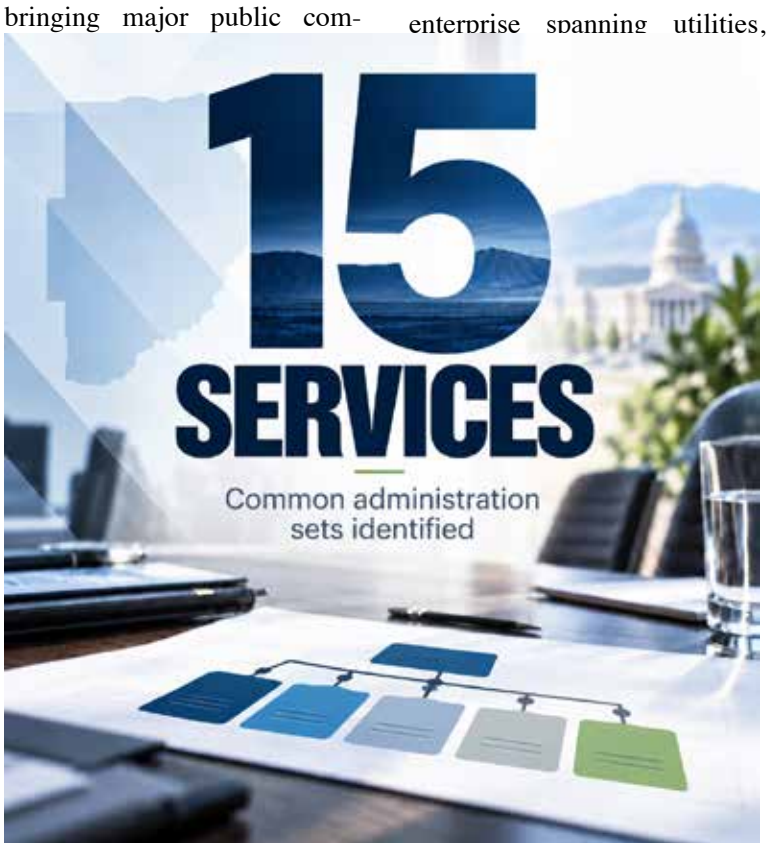
The ultimate measure of reform must be the citizen's experience. Faster approvals, reliable utilities, functioning infrastructure, accessible services and clearer accountability matter more than a new organisational chart.

PUBLIC DEBATE

To examine these choices, the 2nd Republic Policy Think Tank will host a public online webinar, "Rebuilding the State: Can Botswana govern better with less?", on Thursday, October 8, 2026, from 09:30 to 11:00 Botswana time. The advertised panel comprises Dr Patrick Molutsi, Sennye Obuseng, Biggie Butale and Dr Douglas Rasbash.

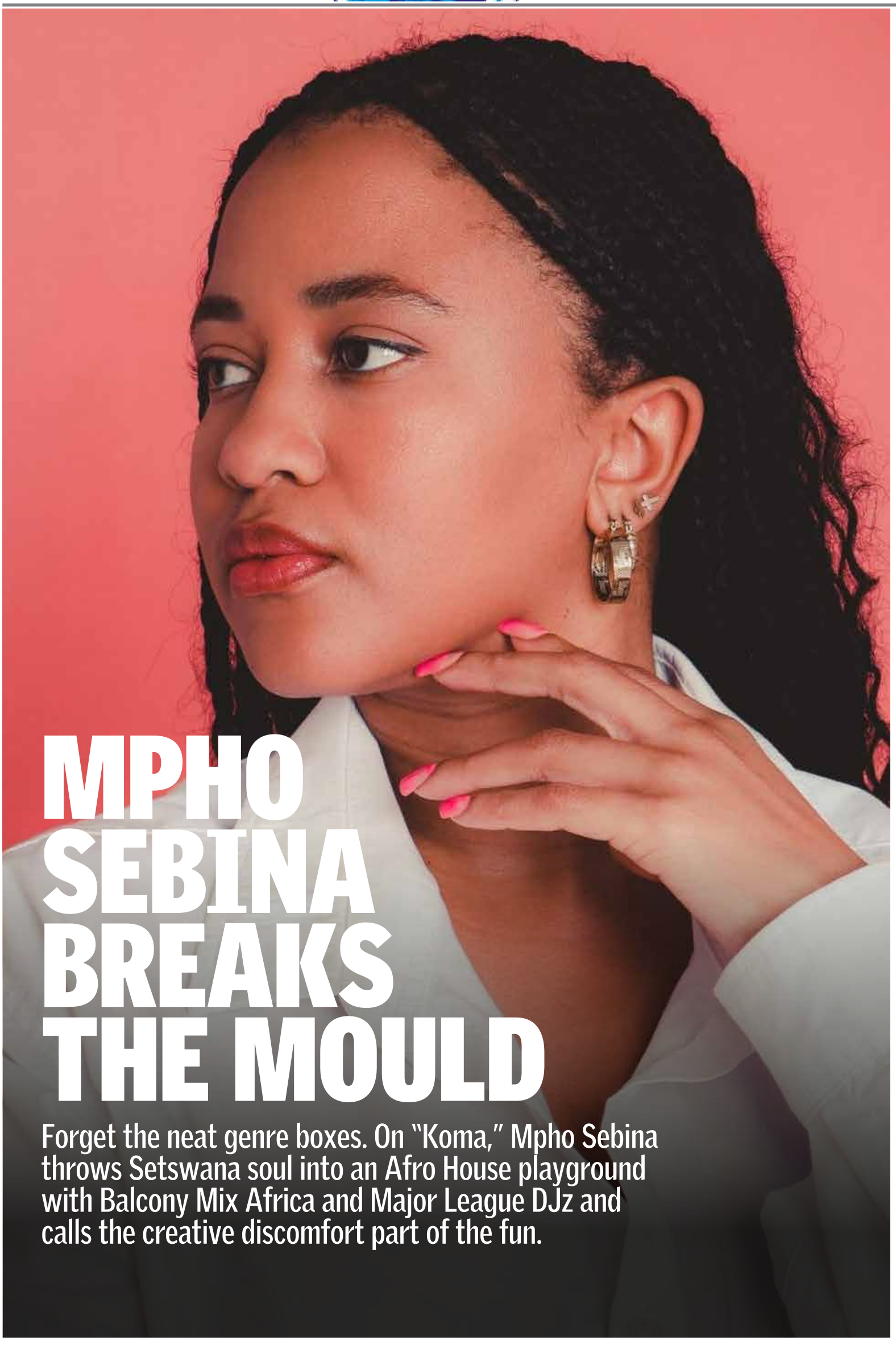
Botswana's first sixty years demonstrated what a capable state could build. Its next chapter will depend on how effectively that state enables people to build livelihoods of their own.







The Botswana Gazette
TIME OUT
THE BOTSWANA GAZETTE
WEDNESDAY 07 OCTOBER 2026



MPHO SEBINA BREAKS THE MOULD

Forget the neat genre boxes. On "Koma," Mpho Sebina throws Setswana soul into an Afro House playground with Balcony Mix Africa and Major League DJz and calls the creative discomfort part of the fun.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Mpho Sebina is not interested in staying musically comfortable.

On "Koma," her latest collaboration with Balcony Mix Africa and Major League DJz, the Botswana vocalist walks into the electronic dance world and lets the boundaries blur. Soul, Setswana, 3-step and Afro House collide, producing a track that sounds less like a genre exercise and more like an artist testing her range in real time.

The interesting part? Sebina wanted the challenge.

INTO THE UNKNOWN

The song apparently changed direction during its creation, but remained rooted in Afro House, a sound Sebina says she is increasingly enjoying.

"I love music as a whole and enjoy being able to express myself across genres," she told Time Out. "I thrive on exploring new soundscapes."

That exploratory instinct has long been part of Sebina's musical identity, moving between soul, jazz, electronic music and contemporary African sounds. "Koma" simply pushes that instinct further onto the dancefloor.

SOUL MEETS THE CLUB

Sebina describes the song as living somewhere between "Setswana, Soul, 3 step, Afro House, Electronic music."

It is a deliciously messy musical address.

> "I thrive on exploring new soundscapes."

Rather than treating these genres as separate rooms, "Koma" throws open the doors. Balcony Mix Africa's production and Major League DJz's dancefloor DNA meet Sebina's expressive vocals, creating a conversation between intimacy and movement.

And for Sebina, being stretched is part of the point.

"Yes it pushed me out of my comfort zone a lot," she says. "I try to push myself out of my comfort every once in a while."

THE NEXT MPHO?

If "Koma" is any indication, Sebina is entering a more experimental chapter, one where collaboration becomes a passport to unfamiliar sonic territory.

She calls it "collaboration and exploration mode," with plans to incorporate more sounds and genres into her repertoire.

That makes "Koma", which is now streaming on all platforms more than another feature. It is a snapshot of an artist deliberately refusing to stand still.

The dancefloor, apparently, is the new laboratory.



Shaka iLembe Goes Global

The Zulu king is crossing borders. After breaking South African TV records, Shaka iLembe: Zulu King is taking its isiZulu storytelling, political intrigue and epic African scale to the world.

GAZETTE REPORTER

Shaka is leaving the kingdom.

Not literally, of course. But after becoming one of South Africa's biggest television phenomena, *Shaka iLembe: Zulu King* is finally stepping beyond the continent, with STUDIOCANAL taking the isiZulu-language epic to international buyers at MIPCOM 2026.

That changes the conversation. This is no longer simply a lavish retelling of one of Southern Africa's most famous historical figures. It is an African story testing its power in a global television market — without changing the language that made it authentically African.

FROM ZULULAND TO THE WORLD

Produced by Bomb Productions for MultiChoice, the series traces the rise of Shaka kaSenzangakhona through the eyes of African filmmakers and historians. Its first two seasons have already become DStv's highest-rated drama, while the series was South Africa's most-searched TV show in 2023.

Then came the awards: 12 SAFTAs in a single year, including Best Drama Series.

Now comes the international gamble, not in changing *Shaka*, but in seeing how far *Shaka* can travel as it is.

"Shaka iLembe demonstrates that the most powerful stories are often the most specific, and we are delighted to see this proudly African production find new audiences around the world," says Nomsa Philiso, Vice President, Content at CANAL+ Africa.

NEW KINGDOMS, NEW PRESSURES

Season three jumps four years forward. Shaka's kingdom dominates Southern Africa, but new forces are gathering: British expansion, European influence, the emerging Basotho Kingdom of Moshoeshoe, King Faku's Mpondo Kingdom and the settlement of Port Natal.

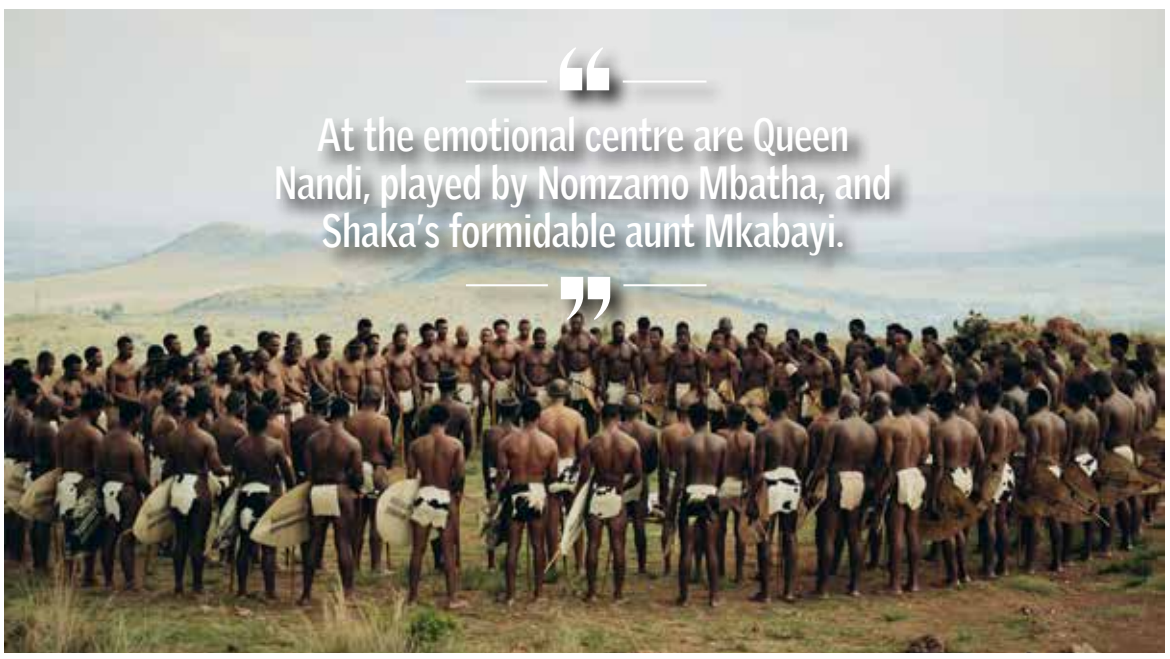
At the emotional centre are Queen Nandi, played by Nomzamo Mbatha, and Shaka's formidable aunt Mkabayi.

The new season also introduces Lerato Mvelase as Queen Mpikase, Aiden Scott as British trader Henry Francis Fynn, Conrad Kemp as Lt. Francis Farewell and Wonder Ndlovu as Prince Mpande.

THE AFRICAN STORY, UNTRANSLATED

For executive producer and star Mbatha, the show's international journey is about more than ratings.

> "Shaka iLembe demonstrates that the most powerful stories are often the most specific, and we are delighted to see this proudly African production find new audiences around the world,"



"Shaka iLembe: Zulu King is proof of what African storytelling can achieve when it's given the room to be ambitious, told at scale, and shared from the inside out," she says.

That "inside out" part may be the real headline.

With more than 20,000 jobs created across production and a reported expansion into francophone Africa through CANALAfrique+ MAGIC, *Shaka iLembe* has already become a creative-industry story as much as a television one.



Ke Moeti Exhibition Bridges Two Worlds

What happens to identity when you become a stranger somewhere else? In Ke Moeti, Oteng Keabetswe turns travel, memory and cultural dislocation into a visual conversation about where we belong.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Sometimes you have to leave home to really see it.

That tension sits at the centre of *Ke Moeti (I Am a Visitor)*, a new exhibition by Motswana visual artist Oteng Keabetswe opening at Alliance Française de Gaborone on October 8.

The title sounds temporary. The questions are anything but.

Drawing from encounters with places he has visited, Keabetswe turns the experience of being a visitor into a meditation on identity, belonging and the strange business of trying to locate yourself between worlds.

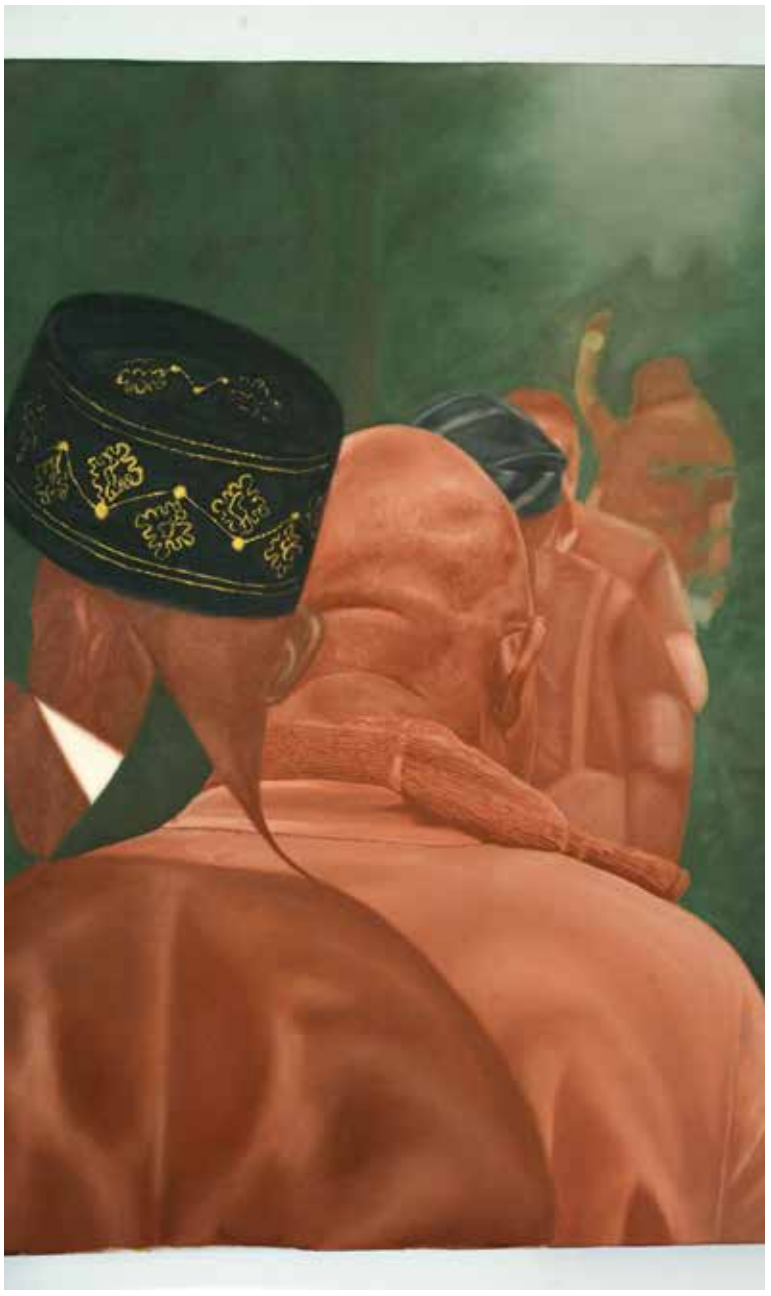
FROM CARTOONS TO THE UNKNOWN

Keabetswe's journey began innocently enough, with childhood drawings of cartoons. It eventually moved into finely rendered charcoal and pencil portraits before taking a more experimental turn into surreal, abstract and geometric compositions.

> Keabetswe draws from the rhythms of village life while confronting the disorientation of modernity.

His portraits linger on emotional states — introspection, longing and contemplation — while the abstract works bend form, colour and space towards uncertainty and possibility.

The result is an artist seemingly unwilling to stay in one visual neighbourhood.



BETWEEN TUTUME AND EVERYWHERE

As a Kalanga artist from Tutume, Keabetswe draws from the rhythms of village life while confronting the disorientation of modernity.

That push and pull gives the work its pulse: rural versus urban, tradition versus innovation, recognisable figures versus distorted forms.

But *Ke Moeti* isn't simply asking where Keabetswe has been.

It asks what those places have done to the person who visited them.

His work treats identity as something less like a fixed address and more like luggage — constantly unpacked, rearranged and repacked after every encounter.

WHO GETS TO BELONG?

The exhibition ultimately turns the gaze back on the viewer.

What happens to your sense of self when you enter unfamiliar territory? What pieces of heritage travel with you? And what changes when you return?

Keabetswe's answer appears to be that belonging is never entirely settled.

"Ke Moeti" becomes less a declaration of distance than an invitation to look again — at home, at elsewhere and at the person standing between the two.

How To Keep Setswana Alive

A language does not stay alive because we say we love it. It survives when it is used at home, in schools, in stories, in shops and in everyday conversation. Somarela Setswana is putting books at the centre of that mission.



GAZETTE REPORTER

Want to keep Setswana alive? Start with a book.

Then read it. Read it to your children. Buy another one. Write one. Publish one. Speak the language after closing the book.

That is the deceptively simple idea behind *Somarela Setswana*, a literacy and literature campaign led by University of Botswana senior lecturer and linguist Dr Naledi Kgolo-Lotshwao.

STEP ONE: MAKE IT READABLE

For Kgolo-Lotshwao, language preservation cannot stop at the classroom door.

Growing urbanisation and the dominance of English-language reading material can influence what children choose to read and which language becomes their default.

Her response is to give Setswana more space on the bookshelf. Her four books — *Ithute Setswana – Learn Setswana*, *Ithute Kgomo*, *Loeto lwa ga Lobone go ya Morakeng* and *Lewa le le Ntle* — combine familiar Botswana experiences with vocabulary development and literacy.

The point is not simply to teach Setswana. It is to make children want to spend time in it.

STEP TWO: USE IT EVERYWHERE

Keeping a language alive also means creating reasons for people to use it beyond school.

Learn Setswana – Ithute Setswana opens the door to international residents, workers and students, while Kgolo-Lotshwao encourages families and communities to read, speak and write Setswana in everyday life.

Schools, parents, corporates, embassies and NGOs can also help by sponsoring books or incorporating locally produced literature into corporate gifting.

That creates another important ingredient: a market for Botswana's writers, illustrators and publishers.

STEP THREE: KEEP CREATING

The next chapter is already coming. *Dikgomo tsa Botswana*, a coffee-table book, is expected in the first quarter of 2027.

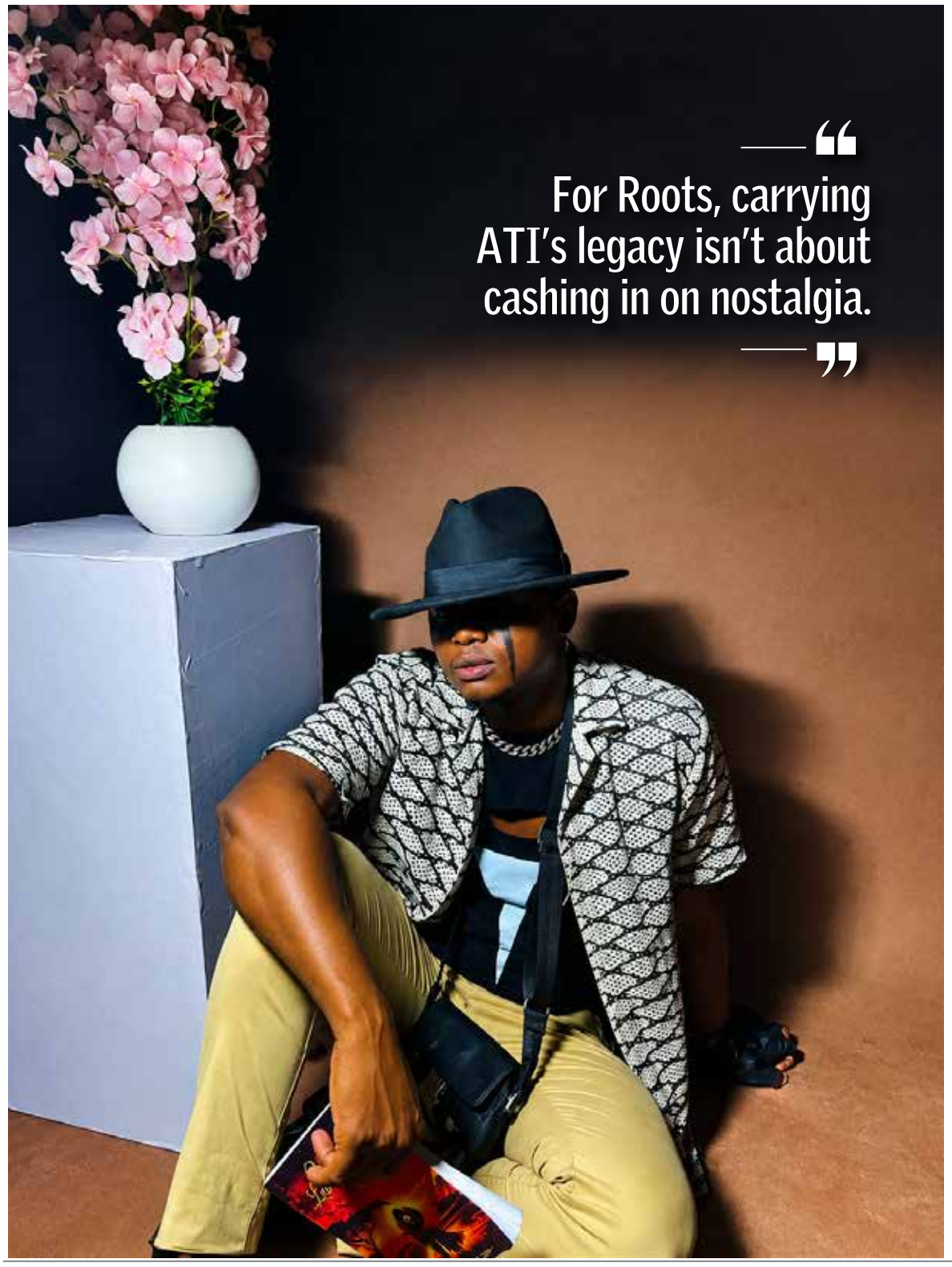
For *Somarela Setswana*, the destination is bigger than literacy.

A language does not stay alive because we say we love it. It survives when we use it. That means turning Setswana from something children study into something they choose for stories, imagination, knowledge, creativity and fun.

> The next chapter is already coming. Dikgomo tsa Botswana, a coffee-table book, is expected in the first quarter of 2027.

The *Somarela Setswana* meet-and-greet with Kgolo-Lotshwao takes place Wednesday, 7 October, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Botswana Craft.

MEET COLLEN, ATI'S COSPLAYER



What happens when being a superfan goes far beyond admiration? For Collen Roots, ATI's voice, swagger and movement have become a living ritual, one that keeps a lost icon present long after the music stops.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

The costume comes on. The walk shifts. Suddenly, Collen Roots is no longer quite Collen.

At recent appearances surrounding ATI's posthumous album *Box Office* and the late artist's tombstone unveiling in Lerala, Roots has been turning heads by recreating the look, sound and physicality of Atasaone Molemogi. He is widely regarded as Botswana's first artist cosplayer but calling him an impersonator misses the strange, emotional heart of the story.

This is fandom with muscle memory.

FROM SUPERFAN TO STAGE MATE

Roots, a Serowe native and Botho University accounting graduate, was dancing and entertaining long before ATI became part of his identity. But the connection began when he was in Form 4.

A classmate's sibling told ATI about a young fan who could imitate him. ATI invited Roots to an album launch at Lady Khama. Nervous but determined, Roots performed alongside "Ke Lekhete".

"I was nervous because I have loved him since Form 1," he said in an interview.

The encounter grew into friendship and collaboration. A.T.I later discovered Roots' dance group, Khonga Roots, and performed with them at Togetherness and other shows.

"COLLEN DISAPPEARS"

Roots says the imitation was never something he consciously manufactured. He had been absorbing ATI's mannerisms for years.

"Since I was young I used to imitate him and I realised that it's within me."

He has studied everything: the walk, talk, singing, dancing, clothes and crowd interaction.

"When I am on stage I try to portray how good ATI was with his craft, Collen disappears and ATI remains."

GRIEF WITH A BEAT

Songs such as "Di Nnile" take him straight back to their brotherhood. "IPicture" carries a different weight, reminding him of difficult moments and motivating him to continue with school, work and dance.

For Roots, carrying ATI's legacy isn't about cashing in on nostalgia.

"I am going to show up for him and myself as well because honoring him also heals me."

That makes the cosplay more than costume. It is remembrance in motion — a fan keeping an artist's energy alive by becoming, however briefly, the person he refuses to let disappear.

ACEL IS COMING

Gaborone is about to become a meeting point for Africa's creative economy, with ACEL 2026 bringing artists' biggest enablers — policy, investment, infrastructure and technology — into the same room.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI

Gaborone is about to get a serious dose of creative-economy energy.

On October 15–16, the Africa Creative Economy Lens (ACEL) 2026 lands in Botswana, bringing more than 200 policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, creative leaders and industry intermediaries from over 20 countries together for two days of big questions about where Africa's creative economy goes next.

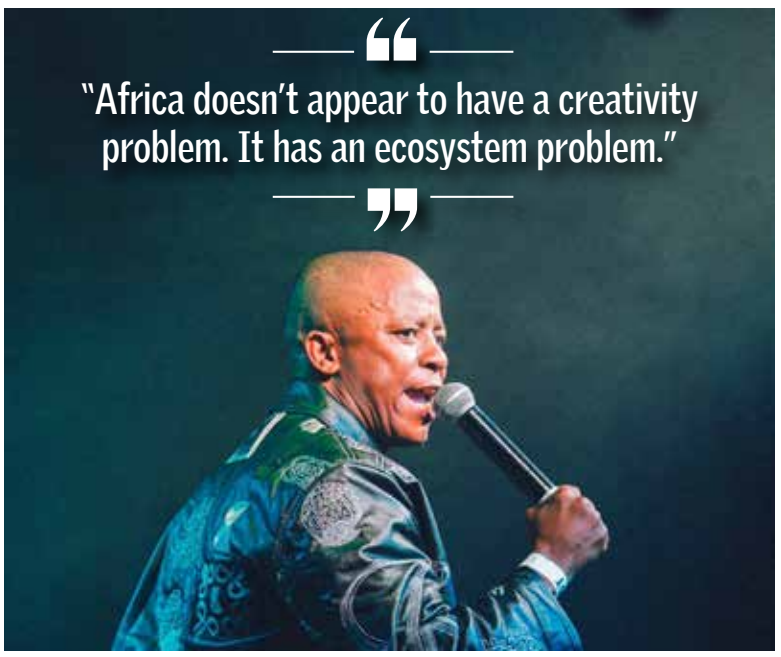
The theme is "Building Sustainable Infrastructure for Africa's Creative Economies" — a decidedly less glamorous phrase than music, fashion or film, but potentially more important.

Because Africa doesn't appear to have a creativity problem. It has an ecosystem problem.

FROM TALENT TO INFRASTRUCTURE

ACEL, the flagship convening of the Africa Creatives Alliance, will put the machinery behind creativity under the microscope.

First comes policy: regulation, intellectual property, trade and investment frameworks — the rules that can either unlock creative businesses or leave them fighting through paperwork and uncertainty.



Then there are the physical spaces: studios, venues, hubs, makerspaces and cultural districts where ideas actually become products, businesses and experiences.

And then there is the digital frontier.

Platforms, data, fintech, digital rights management and emerging technologies are rapidly reshaping how African creatives make money, protect their work and reach global audiences.

NOT JUST ANOTHER TALK SHOP

ACEL is designed as a co-creation platform, with participants expected to develop practical insights, knowledge products and solution frameworks that can influence policy, programmes and investment priorities across the creative value chain.

That follows the 2025 edition in Kigali, which drew more than 200 leaders from over 20 countries and produced the Creative Economy Action Paper and Investment Safe Label Pilot.

Now the conversation moves to Gaborone.

THE ROOM IS GETTING BIGGER

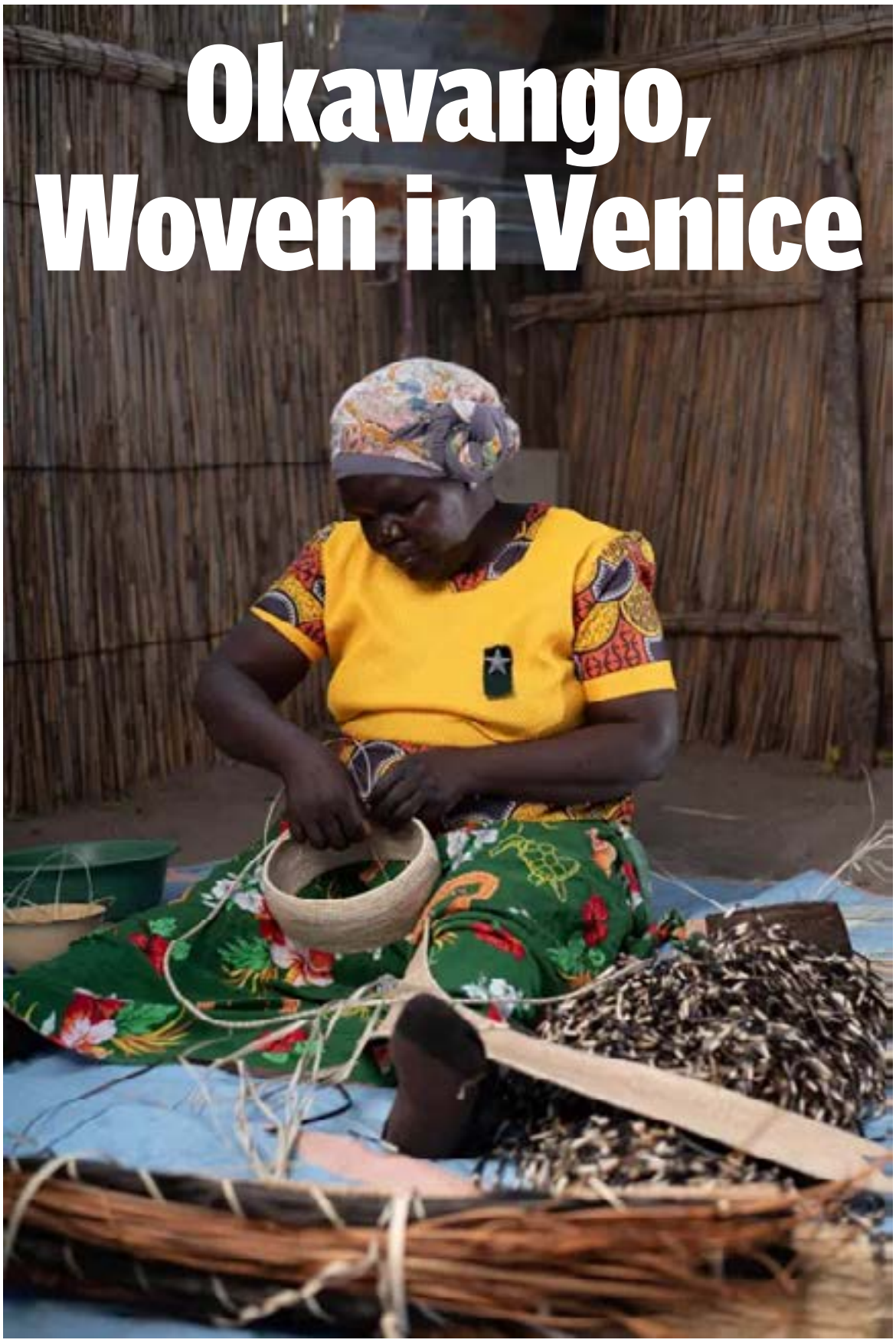
With government representatives, development finance institutions, investors and creative entrepreneurs sharing the same space, ACEL 2026 is positioning creativity as something bigger than entertainment.

It is about infrastructure. It is about markets. It is about ownership. And ultimately, it is about whether Africa can build systems capable of turning its cultural imagination into sustainable economic value.

Okavango, Woven in Venice

From Ngamiland to Venice, Shakunona Parata has pushed Okavango basketry beyond the souvenir shelf one coil, quill and sculptural experiment at a time.

GOSEGO MOTSUMI



Venice has canals. Botswana has the Okavango. At Homo Faber 2026, the two worlds met through the hands of master basket weaver Shakunona Parata, who took an ancestral Ngamiland craft and gave it a decidedly contemporary twist.

Parata became the face of Botswana's first showcase at the international craftsmanship biennial, held at Fondazione Giorgio Cini recently. Supported by De Beers, she delivered live weaving demonstrations and unveiled *Diware*, a sculptural work developed with Peter Mabeo of Mabeo Studio.

FROM BASKET TO SCULPTURE

Parata learned the craft from her mother as a child, mastering the traditional coil-weaving technique using finely cut palm leaves and grass. Her Okavango practice is rooted in the landscape and communities surrounding the river, where natural materials have long been part of everyday life.

In Venice, she interpreted a Mabeo Studio design using traditional weaving alongside foraged porcupine quills, semiprecious stones and hand-carved wooden charms.

The result: basketry that refuses to stay in the basket aisle.

HOW FAR CAN THE CRAFT GO?

Parata's fascination is experimentation. She has explored dyes made from unconventional plants, experimented with industrial inks and continually tested how far the medium can stretch without losing its identity.

Homo Faber describes her practice as an "instinct for experimenting with Okavango basketry" a fitting description for an artist working between inheritance and invention.

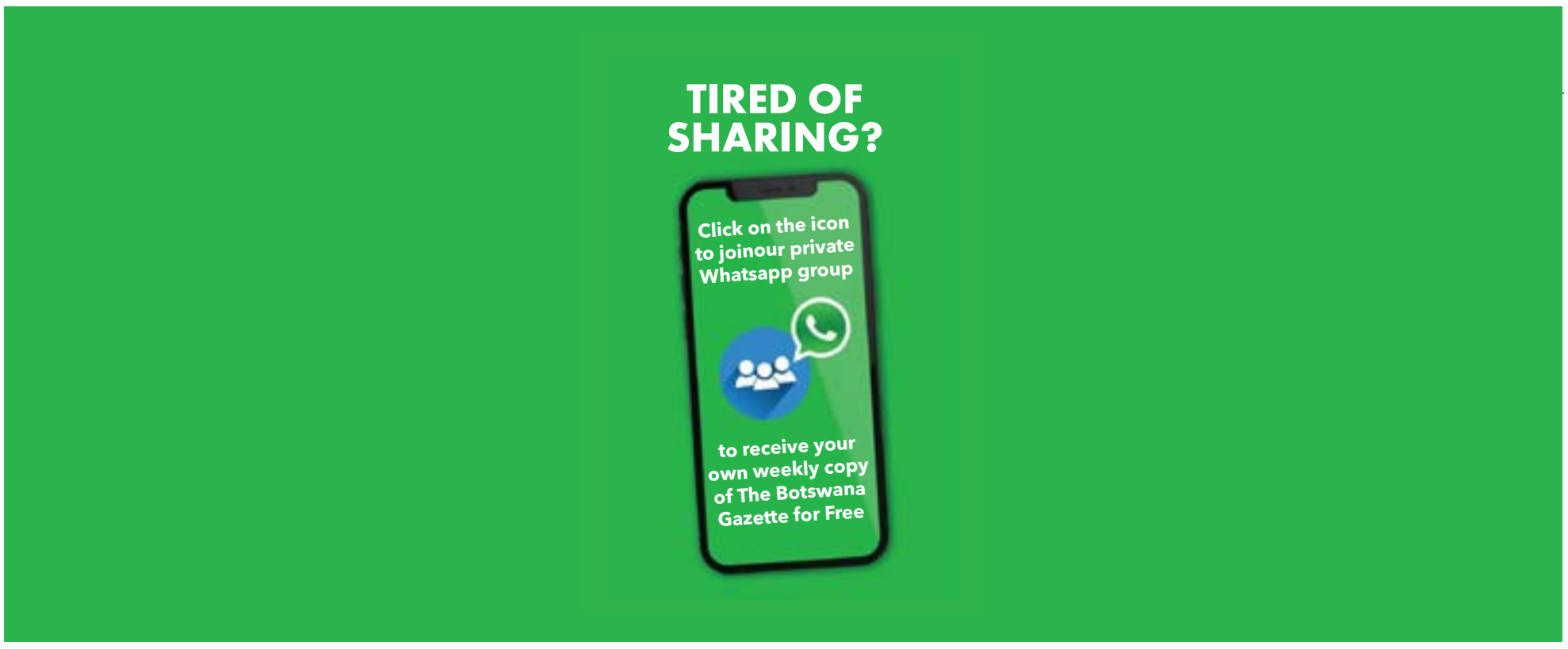
The collaboration was also part of De Beers' wider work with Mabeo Studio, exploring "the artistry and craftsmanship that emerge from the same landscapes as natural diamonds."

De Beers said it was proud to support a platform that shared Botswana's heritage and creative talent internationally, while recognising "the dedication, knowledge and traditions" nurtured across generations.

> Supported by De Beers, she delivered live weaving demonstrations and unveiled Diware, a sculptural work developed with Peter Mabeo of Mabeo Studio.

For Parata, the future of basketry is not about freezing tradition in time. It is about allowing it to evolve while keeping its roots firmly planted in the Okavango.

And that may be the real flex: Botswana's heritage does not need to be repackaged to travel. Sometimes, it just needs to be woven differently.



IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO. CVHGB – 000097-2016

In the matter between
AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION OF BOTSWANA LIMITED **Plaintif**
and
BERNARD BOLELE **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 8th April 2016 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERIFF U. J CHILISA** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 6 November 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 3800, Mahalapye
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hours

TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an **UPFRONT** payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot **3800**, **Mahalapye** in the Bangwato Tribal Territory, measuring **4608 m²** (Four Thousand Six Hundred and Eight Square Metres) held under Notarial Deed of Cession Number FT MA 237/2011 dated 14th day of November 2011 made in favour of Bolele Bernard Bolele specially executable. The developments therein are a three bedroomed house consisting of three bedrooms, bath and toilet, sitting room, kitchen, separate two rooms at the back, paved, electric fence and a screen wall.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11, Gaborone
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff U.J. Chilisa
[Cell No. 74931240/71594008]

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO: CVHGB – 000218 - 24

In the matter between:
BANK OF BARODA (BOTSWANA) LTD **Plaintiff**
and
GALAXY ELECTRICAL (PTY) LTD **1st Defendant**
SIOUTAS GERASIMOS **2nd Defendant**
KOUVARA EFFROSYNI **3rd Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 23rd September 2024 the following immovable property of the abovementioned 1st Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKGOPOTSE MOTLHAGODI** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 06th November 2026
VENUE : Lot 5570, Gaborone
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hours
TERMS OF SALE : Only cash or Bank Transfer (EFT) will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.
PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The 1st Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Lot **5570, Gaborone** in Gaborone Extension 18; measuring **1034 m²** held under Deed of Transfer no. 719/2002 dated 04th day of April 2002 made in favour of Galaxy Electrical (Proprietary) Limited specially executable. The developments therein are 2 sitting rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 fitted bedrooms ensuite, 2 bedrooms, 2 toilets, shower, swimming pool, paved yard, security wall and electric fence. 4 servants-quarters, 2 toilets.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 21ST DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11, Gaborone
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Onkgopotse Motlhagodi
[Cell No. 71868324]

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT GABORONE

CASE NO. CVHGB – 001680 - 18

In the matter between
BBS BANK LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
BOIKOBO MONAGENG **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 01st August 2018 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERIFF ONKEMETSE MEDUPE** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 30th October 2026
VENUE : Tribal Lot 356, Gabane
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hours
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an **UPFRONT** payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being Tribal Lot **356, Gabane** in the Bakwena Tribal Territory; measuring **874m²** held under Notarial Deed of Cession no. MA 68/2010 dated 24th day of February 2010 made in favour of **Boikobo Monageng** specially executable. The developments therein are a multi residential 2 bedroomed house, gated and fenced, with a kitchen, sitting room, bathroom and toilet in each house.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 21ST DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11, Gaborone
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Onkemetse Medupe
[Cell No. 3153092/72157208]

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
HELD AT LOBATSE

CASE NO. CVHGB – 001382 - 25

In the matter between
BBS BANK LIMITED **Plaintiff**
and
REFILWE DUDU LEFHOKO **Defendant**

NOTICE OF SALE IN EXECUTION

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a Judgment granted by the above Honourable Court on the 27th February 2026 the following immovable property of the abovementioned Defendant will be sold by means of public auction to the highest bidder by **DEPUTY SHERIFF URGENT JAY CHILISA** as follows:

DATE OF SALE : Friday 30th October 2026
VENUE : Lot 66191, Gaborone North
TIME OF SALE : 1030 hours
TERMS OF SALE : All participating bidders are required to make an **UPFRONT** payment of BWP 10 000.00 directly to the undersigned Attorneys, refundable only to those who did not succeed in the sale. Only cash or bank guaranteed cheques will be accepted. The detailed conditions of sale are available for inspection at the undersigned Attorneys' offices.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD : The Defendant's title rights and interest in a certain piece of land being **Lot 66191, Gaborone** in the Gaborone Administrative District; measuring **1000m²** held under Deed of Transfer no. 1468/2009 dated 03rd day of July 2009 made in favour of **Refilwe Dudu Lefhoko** specially executable. The developments therein are an open kitchen, sitting room, master bedroom, three bedrooms, bathroom with toilet, double garage, swimming pool, screen wall with electric fence and outside room with bathroom and toilet.

DATED AT GABORONE ON THIS 21ST DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Attorneys • Notaries • Conveyancers

COLLINS CHILISA CONSULTANTS
Plot 4858, Lecha Road
Off Marakanelo Way
Extension 11, Gaborone
P O Box 45136
GABORONE
Deputy Sheriff Urgent Jay Chilisa
[Cell No. 77885283/72821439]

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTROLLED TRANSACTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 5 OF THE LAND CONTROL ACT (CAP. 32:11)

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE that the following controlled transaction is proposed:

THE SELLER : **Rotric Engineering and Industrial Supplies (Proprietary) Limited**
THE PURCHASER : **Inkukukaya Botswana (Proprietary) Limited**
CERTAIN : **Piece of land being Portion 4 of the Farm No. 17-NQ**
MEASURING : **10,3575 Ha (Ten comma Three Five Seven Five Hectares)**
WHICH PROPERTY : **Is held under Deed of Transfer No. 307/94 dated 22nd March 1994, made in favour of Rotric Engineering and Industrial Supplies (Proprietary) Limited**

CONSIDERATION : **P1,800,000.00 (One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pula).**
SUBJECT : **To the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement of Sale, which may be inspected at the Offices of Van Niekerk Attorneys, Ditau Street, Plot 4660, Area G, P. O.Box 37, Francistown.**

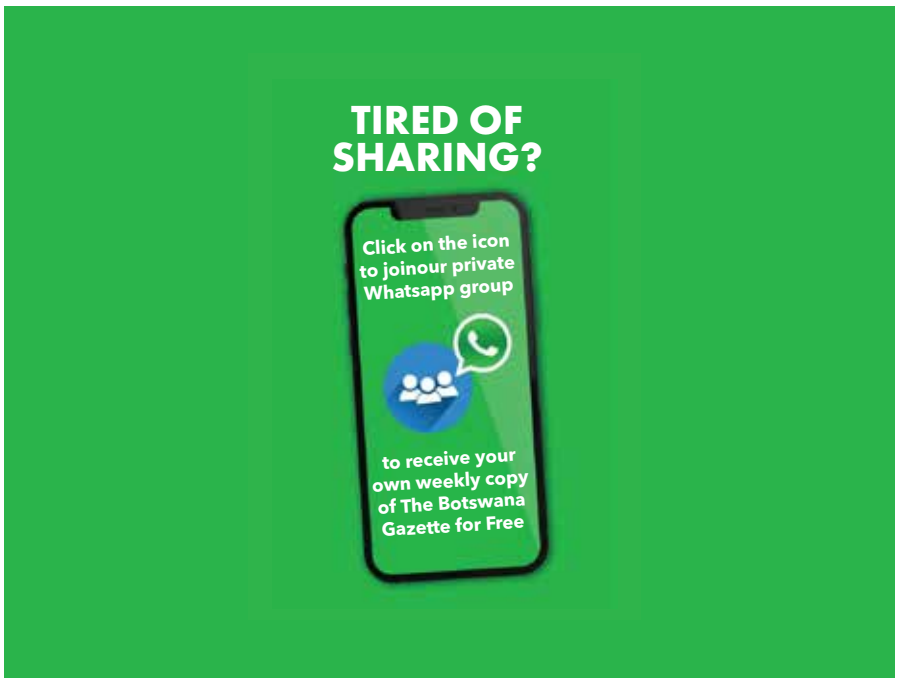
BE PLEASED TO TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that:

a) All Botswana citizens interested in entering into a similar transaction in respect of the above property shall be given priority notwithstanding the agreement reached by the above-named parties regarding the controlled transaction.

b) Should any person wish to object to this proposed controlled transaction, notice of such objection with reasons therefore be addressed to the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture with copies to the undersigned (Van Niekerk Attorneys) within Ninety (90) days from the date of publication hereof.

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN ON THIS THE 16th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026

VAN NIEKERK ATTORNEYS,
Ditau Street, Plot 4660, Area G, P. O. Box 37, FRANCISTOWN





KEBINATSHIPI ENTERS WORLD ATHLETE RACE

Six performances under 44 seconds and a string of record breaking runs have propelled Collen Kebinatshipi into contention for World Athlete of the Year.

"My plan is just to dominate for the longest period possible."

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana's Collen Kebinatshipi has capped a historic 2026 campaign with a nomination for the prestigious Men's World Athlete of the Year award, putting him in contention to follow in the footsteps of compatriot Letsile Tebogo. World Athletics confirmed on Tuesday that the 22 year old is among the 10 nominees for the men's honour, with the winners to be crowned at the World Athletics Awards in Monaco on November 29.

RECORD PACE

Kebinatshipi's nomination is backed by a remarkable collection of performances and records. His season reached its peak at the World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest last month, where he stormed to the 400m title in a Botswana national record of 43.39 seconds, moving him to fifth on the world all time list.

That Budapest run was also his sixth performance under 44 seconds of the season, making him the first man in history to dip below 44 seconds six times in a single year. He also produced three of the nine fastest 400m performances ever recorded, 43.39, 43.40 and 43.44.

DIAMOND DOMINANCE

His dominance stretched across the Diamond League circuit, where he went six for six and claimed the overall title. Along the way, Kebinatshipi rewrote the Diamond League record three times, running 43.54 in Paris, 43.44 in Monaco and lowering it further to 43.40 in the Brussels final.

BEYOND 400M

His record breaking year has not been confined to the individual 400m. Kebinatshipi helped Botswana win the men's 4x400m at the World Athletics Relays in Gaborone in an African record 2:54.47, while he also demonstrated his raw speed by clocking 9.89 seconds twice over 100m at the Botswana Championships in April.

CHASING HISTORY

The nomination gives Kebinatshipi an opportunity to become only the second Motswana to win the World Athlete of the Year crown. Tebogo captured the men's overall award in 2024 after his historic Olympic 200m triumph in Paris, where he became Botswana's first Olympic champion, and was also named Men's Track Athlete of the Year that season.

Kebinatshipi faces a star studded field that includes pole vault world record holder Mondo Duplantis, 400m hurdles world record holder Alison dos Santos, sprinter Kenneth Bednarek and marathon world record holder Sabastian Sawe. Voting closes on October 17, before the three men's finalists are announced in November.

After describing 2026 as only the beginning of his rise, Kebinatshipi recently told World Athletics, "My plan is just to dominate for the longest period possible."

BNSC Protects Region 5 Funding

BNSC says preparations for the 2026 Region 5 Youth Games will remain funded despite pressure on government spending.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana National Sports Commission (BNSC) Chief Executive Officer Olebile Sikwane says financial pressures facing government will not be allowed to derail Team Botswana's preparations for the 2026 AUSC Region 5 Youth Games. Speaking during the Region 5 torch handover ceremony at Mogoditshane Senior Secondary School on October 2, Sikwane said funding for Botswana's participation in the Games has been prioritised despite the constrained financial environment.

FUNDING PROTECTED

"We have committed to ensuring that Team Botswana is fully prepared. Despite financial constraints, we have prioritised funding for camps preparation, coaching support and equipment for all qualified codes," said Sikwane.

The commitment underlines the importance Botswana continues to place on the regional youth competition, which has historically served as a development platform for athletes who later graduate to senior international competition. Sikwane said investment in preparing young athletes remains a priority because of its potential long term contribution to Botswana's elite sport pipeline.

DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE

The 2026 AUSC Region 5 Youth Games will be staged in Maputo, Mozambique from December 4 to 13, bringing together some of Southern Africa's leading Under 20 athletes across several sporting codes. Sikwane described the competition as a breeding ground for Botswana's future Olympians and world champions.



Botswana National Olympic Committee Vice President Tebo Segaise also stressed the value of youth competitions, saying they give athletes an early introduction to the standards and demands of international competition. "Every Olympic medallist, Commonwealth champion, and world record holder, their journey to global dominance started right here at youth events, like school sport games, as well as Region Five games," she said.

TORCH HANDOVER

The remarks came as the Region 5 Games torch passed through Botswana on its journey to Mozambique. The Mogoditshane ceremony brought together representatives from the BNSC, BNOC, Ministry of Sport and Arts and a Mozambican delegation.

The AUSC Region 5 Youth Games are held every two years on a rotational basis across Southern Africa. They are designed to develop young athletes towards senior international competition.



ROYAL ENCOUNTER RETURNS UNDER LIGHTS

Chiefs carry a four match unbeaten league run against Rollers into Saturday's Royal Encounter, with pride and early season momentum at stake.

BONGANI MALUNGA

One of Botswana football's heavyweight rivalries returns to centre stage on Saturday night when Mochudi Centre Chiefs and Township Rollers collide in the eagerly anticipated Royal Encounter at the National Stadium in Gaborone. The October 10 showdown, scheduled for a 7pm kick off, brings together two of the country's most decorated clubs with more than three FNB Premiership points at stake, as pride, bragging rights and momentum go on the line.

CHIEFS' EDGE

Recent league history tilts heavily towards Magosi. Since Chiefs returned to the top flight for the 2024/25 season, Rollers have failed to beat them in four FNB Premiership meetings, beginning with a goalless draw on January 4, 2025 before Chiefs won the reverse fixture 2-0 on April 13.

Chiefs tightened their grip on the rivalry last season, beating Rollers 2-1 on October 25, 2025 before completing the league double with another 2-0 victory on March 14 this year. That gives Chiefs three wins and a draw from the last four league meetings, with six goals scored and only one conceded.

NEEDING MOMENTUM

The two giants enter the encounter needing momentum for different reasons. Chiefs have collected four points from their opening four assignments after a 1-0 defeat to Extension Gunners, a 2-0 victory over Nico United, a 1-1 draw against Tonota FC and a 2-0 defeat to TAFIC on October 3.

Rollers, meanwhile, have four points from only two completed league fixtures. They drew 1-1 with Morupule Wanderers before producing their strongest performance of the campaign with a 3-0 victory over Extension Gunners, while their opening fixture against Jwaneng Galaxy was abandoned and the scheduled meeting with Orapa United was postponed.

ROLLERS REBUILD

Popa's campaign has unfolded against a turbulent backdrop, but the victory over Gunners offered encouraging signs that their rebuilding project is beginning to gather momentum. Chiefs will be looking to disrupt that progress while extending their recent hold over the fixture.

KGASWANE FACTOR

Adding another layer to Saturday's contest is Chiefs winger Mpho Kgaswane, a player who has developed a habit of hurting Rollers. During his spell at Gaborone United, Kgaswane scored six goals against Popa from 2023 onwards and now has an opportunity to renew acquaintances with them in black and white.

Despite that record, Kgaswane expects another bruising contest. "It won't be an easy game because Rollers is still a big club despite what they are currently going through. The game has historically been a huge occasion and this fixture will continue to be a big draw," Kgaswane told Gazette Sport.

On his knack for producing against Rollers, he played down the individual significance. "The big games always bring out an extra level of motivation for every player. During my time at GU the derby against Rollers was a huge moment and it required all of us to be at our best."

BOUNCE BACK

Kgaswane believes the Royal Encounter presents an immediate opportunity to erase the disappointment of the TAFIC defeat and breathe life into Chiefs' campaign. "Sometimes it's good to go into a game with low expectations because at the moment everyone thinks Chiefs is dead. One good result can turn into a winning streak. Everyone at the club is still hurting by what happened against TAFIC but we are focused on the next game against Rollers," he said.

Nthaga Shuns Early Title Talk



Tonota FC's unbeaten start faces its sternest test against Sua Flamengoes, but coach Thaloba Nthaga refuses to turn early momentum into a title declaration.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Tonota FC may be setting the early pace in the FNB Premiership, but head coach Thaloba Nthaga is refusing to be swept into premature title talk ahead of Friday's top of the table showdown against Sua Flamengoes. The league's two unbeaten frontrunners collide at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown on October 9 at 7pm, with Tonota leading Sua by the narrowest of margins after four matches.

Both sides have collected eight points from two wins and two draws, but Tonota occupy top spot courtesy of a superior goal difference. Nthaga's charges have scored six and conceded three for a +3 goal difference, while Sua have scored three and conceded just once for +2.

EXPECTATIONS CHECKED

Despite Tonota's flying start, Nthaga is keeping expectations firmly in check and insists the focus remains on the immediate assignment rather than what the table could look like several months from now. "For me what's more important is what we do on a weekly basis. Obviously we play to win every game but we will see how far it takes us. I think we have the quality to win a lot of games this season and we have to keep on believing," Nthaga told the media after his side beat Matebele FC 3-1 last weekend.

TONOTA'S RUN

That victory strengthened Tonota's early credentials. They opened their campaign with a 1-0 victory over TAFIC before successive 1-1 draws against BDF XI and Mochudi Centre Chiefs, then restored winning momentum with the 3-1 triumph over Matebele.

DEFENSIVE TEST

Sua, under the tutelage of Leutlwetse Tshireletso, have been equally difficult to beat but have built their start on defensive solidity. They began with a 1-0 win over Matebele, drew 0-0 with Morupule Wanderers, edged Prisons XI 1-0 and shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw with Enesia FC.

Sua's record of just one goal conceded in four matches highlights the challenge awaiting Tonota's attack. Friday's contest therefore pits Tonota's greater attacking output of six goals against the league leaders' closest challenger's more miserly defensive record.

SUMMIT STAKES

Nthaga said their early season form has placed Tonota at the summit, but he is not allowing the August to October opening run to become a declaration of championship ambition. His guarded approach faces its sternest examination yet against fellow unbeaten coach Tshireletso, with outright leadership of the early FNB Premiership race at stake in Francistown.

YOURI CROWN FUELS WTA PUSH

Ekua Youri's Big West singles title gives Botswana's rising tennis star winning momentum ahead of her first WTA professional tournament in Angola next month.

BONGANI MALUNGA

Botswana Tennis Association (BTA) president Oaitse Thipe believes Ekua Youri's latest title triumph has arrived at the perfect time, handing the Botswana star a major confidence boost ahead of her first appearance on the WTA professional stage next month. Youri, representing the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), was crowned Big West Fall Selection singles champion in La Jolla, California on Sunday after defeating Cal State Fullerton's Emilie Lugon Moulin 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 in the final.

The third seeded Motswana held her nerve in a tight opening set tiebreak before closing out the contest in straight sets. Her route to the title also underlined the resilience and form Thipe believes she will need when she steps up to WTA competition.

ROAD TO TITLE

Youri began the tournament with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Long Beach State's Daria Malaescu before surviving a stern test against Martina Markov, recovering from a set down to win 4-6, 7-5, 6-0 in the round of 32. She then swept aside Seha Yu 6-1, 6-1 in the round of 16 on her way towards the latter stages and ultimately the championship match.

CONFIDENCE BOOST

According to Thipe, the significance of the victory stretches beyond another trophy. "The Big West Fall Selection is a tournament where the best players from the top conferences in California compete. Her triumph is good for her confidence because next month she will be playing her first WTA professional tournament. It's very important for her to get a title win before the Angola tournament to boost her confidence," Thipe said.

STRONG YEAR

The triumph adds to a strong year for Youri, who has steadily built her profile at collegiate and international level. She was named the 2025/26 Big West Player of the Year after operating at the top of UCSB's lineup, recording 12 singles victories and reaching as high as No. 100 in the ITA singles rankings.

Her form has also translated into national colours. Youri played a central role in Botswana's historic promotion from Billie Jean King Cup Africa Group III to Europe/Africa Group II in July, registering singles victories against Cameroon, Zimbabwe and Tunisia as Botswana secured a return to the higher division.

WTA STEP UP

Attention will now shift to Luanda, where the Angola Ladies Open will run from November 2 to 8. The hard court tournament is part of the WTA 125 circuit and will feature a 32 player singles draw, presenting Youri with a significant jump in competitive level.

The WTA currently lists the tournament's total financial commitment at $115 000, roughly P1.6 million at current exchange rates, making it one of the biggest professional assignments yet of Youri's career. She will arrive in Angola with the winning momentum that Thipe believes can strengthen her confidence for the challenge.



"It's very important for her to get a title win before the Angola tournament to boost her confidence."

Mfanyana Makes FIBA 3x3 History

Jaden Mfanyana becomes Botswana's first male FIBA 3x3 referee and only the country's second internationally accredited official in the discipline.

BONGANI MALUNGA



Jaden Mfanyana has broken new ground for Botswana basketball after earning a FIBA 3x3 Referee Licence, becoming the first male Motswana to achieve the international accreditation. Available records from basketball world governing body FIBA indicate that he is only the second Botswana referee overall to earn the specialised 3x3 qualification, following trailblazing referee Dorothy Okatch.

Okatch became Botswana's pioneer in international 3x3 officiating after completing a FIBA 3x3 referee course in which candidates underwent physical, technical and skills assessments before being admitted into the international officiating pool. FIBA records show that she initially earned a C Licence before rising through the ranks.

DOUBLE REPRESENTATION

Mfanyana's breakthrough doubles Botswana's representation in a highly specialised international refereeing discipline and opens the door for male officials from the country to follow the same pathway. The achievement also adds another dimension to a Botswana 3x3 programme that has steadily increased its international footprint through hosting competitions, entering national teams and developing technical officials.

Mfanyana has already been active in the development of basketball officiating locally. In October 2025, he led a training clinic for the Fast Break Friday Campus Basketball League at the University of Botswana, taking participants through the fundamentals of officiating and game management.

OKATCH'S PATH

His accreditation places him on a pathway already shown by Okatch to offer opportunities at the highest level of the rapidly growing 3x3 discipline. FIBA's February 2025 list placed Okatch among its elite A Licence referees, and she has gone on to officiate at major competitions including the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

In 2025, Okatch said she had become the first African to hold a FIBA 3x3 A Licence, as well as the continent's first 3x3 referee instructor and evaluator. Mfanyana now becomes the next Motswana on that international ladder.

Mfanyana's breakthrough doubles Botswana's representation in a highly specialised international refereeing discipline and opens the door for male officials from the country to follow the same pathway.

While Botswana has produced other internationally accredited basketball officials, the 3x3 referee licence is a separate accreditation. In 2023, Thato Tema, another Motswana female official, earned a FIBA basketball referee licence, but Okatch remained Botswana's recognised 3x3 international referee.

TIRED OF SHARING?



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